

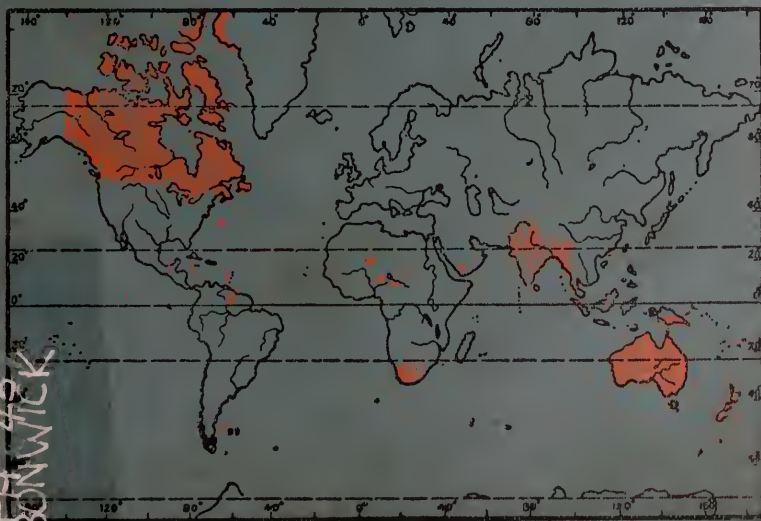
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British Colonies

AFRICA



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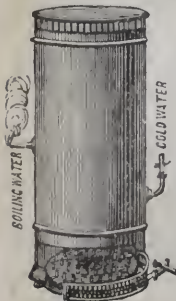
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BRITISH COLONIES IN AFRICA.

THE colonial empire of the British Islands commenced in America. Africa, until quite modern days, knew nothing of Europeans but the Dutchmen at the Cape of Good Hope and the Portuguese of Congo, Loango, Angola, and Mozambique.

Generally slighted on account of the unhealthiness of climate, or the rudeness of its native inhabitants, Africa escaped till quite recently that rage of colonization from Europe that distinguished the American north and south continents, and that servitude of conquest by northern invaders. The English were drawn thither solely in the way of commerce, with little or no desire for permanent occupation.

At present, mainly during the last few years, a remarkable movement has been made toward the acquisition of African territory. Mr. Stanley's grand development of Congo, under a protected association, suddenly awakened the desire of French; Italians, and Germans to secure land for settlement on any portion of African coasts. So thoroughly have those powers, in conjunction with Portuguese and Spaniards, conducted the colonization crusade, that hardly a mile of shore-line remains to the native Africans.

The British possessions, more truly colonies than those of other European nationalities, comprise Sierra Leone, Gambia, the Gold Coast, St. Helena, Cape Colony, Natal, and Mauritius.

Though by no means representing the area claimed by either France, Germany, or Portugal, the square miles occupied by

British subjects are more valuable and more populous, with the enormous advantage of containing so great a proportion of inhabitants having European origin.

WEST AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.

THE British colonies of West Africa are Sierra Leone, Gambia, the Gold Coast and Lagos ; which, though each possessing a local administration, are all under one Governor-in-chief at Sierra Leone.

Long reputed "the grave of Europeans," West Africa has been rather shunned by all but the daring adventurers after wealth, or as a first foothold on official life. In that case, as in many others, the climate has been made the scapegoat of reckless indifference to health. Carrying thither the table habits of a northern clime, indulging in unwonted licentiousness and alcoholic drinking, heedless of exposure to draught with wet clothes, injuring the system by immoderate doses of calomel or quinine, taking no systematic exercise, inhaling miasmatic vapours at night with blood at fever heat by brandy, men have quickly sunk to the grave.

By no means the most salubrious of regions, these settlements have been subjected to very little scientific sanitation. Attention is at last being paid to house cleanliness and ventilation, to a change in the personal habits of natives, to healthful exercise and rational amusement, to a reasonable care in diet, to elevated erections for night quarters, and to the practice of a higher morality.

The Equatorial heat is not hurtful in itself. A rainfall of from 100 to 150 inches a year, while raising a steam sufficiently enervating, performs the good service of washing down impurities into streams. The miasma-laden air from mountain-forest gullies may be shut in upon lowlands by want of draught from overhanging hills. When the sea-breeze *doctor* comes, this breeder of disease is quickly re-

moved. As Governor Pope Hennessey has remarked, "The mountain district, according to the Registrar-General's returns, appears to be as healthy as in any part of England." Once inland, also, away from the dense scrubs and forests nearer the coast, the heat of the sun may be worse, from the brighter skies, but the atmosphere is clear and wholesome.

Mr. Stanley warns that "alcoholic liquors taken in the daytime invite sunstrokes and fevers." Dr. C. Scovell Grant declares "brandy is the worst form of poison." All who drink *Trade rum*, the usual West Coast beverage, may well fear the climate. Coffee and tea are pronounced the safest and most refreshing of drinks. A walk before the sun is high, the use of simple and nourishing food, abstinence from fruit after dinner, the wearing of a cholera belt of flannel or chamois leather, sleeping in soft flannels, having a flannel or Oxford shirt with an undervest of cotton, and with drawers of cotton or balbriggan—a mixture of wool and cotton,—have been recommended by modern physicians. One great authority adds to these "the cultivation of an impassive and philosophic temperament."

Thus armed, the European may quietly pursue his trading path. Only the fear of *Yellow Jack*, dysentery, or other African maladies, has kept many ardent commercial spirits from visiting the West Coast. What there awaits the adventurous was thus lately placed before the Royal Colonial Institute of London by Mr. T. Risely Griffith, Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone:—

"Very few of our commercial men are alive to the importance and advantages which Sierra Leone and the West Coast of Africa present for trade. The few who have recognized those advantages are making large profits, and if their number was increased great benefit would result both to themselves and the Coast."

At the same time, it is deeply to be regretted that this trade, which could and should have been to the increase of comfort and civilization among the Africans, has tended rather to their further misery and degradation. It is not merely Christian zeal that has been excited, since we have

the traveller, Captain Burton, saying, "I shall never cease to protest against the sale of rum, guns, and gunpowder, when an innocent trade of worked cottons, salt, and the minor luxuries of life would be equally profitable."

SIERRA LEONE.

This colony includes Los Isles in $9\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N., the peninsula of Sierra Leone and neighbourhood, British Sherbro', and the coast southward to the Free State of Liberia, in lat. $6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.

Sierra Leone proper is about eighteen miles by twelve, containing about 300 square miles. The addition of Sherbro' by treaty in 1862 was an important one. The last annexation, that made in 1884, comprised the Sulymah and Gallinas coast as far as the Mannak river. The Isles de Los are opposite Mellicoury river. The colony has 468 square miles.

The country was passed by Hanno the Carthaginian 600 B.C., and visited by the Portuguese between 1462 and 1480. The name *Sierra Leone*, or *Serra de Leôa*, has been derived from the lion shape of the range, or the lion-like roaring of thunder among the hills. An English trading fort was established in 1695, but was soon abandoned. As the only harbour of refuge between the Gambia and Cape Colony, the locality was long strangely overlooked.

In 1787 its history commenced. A society was then formed by such heroes of negro emancipation as Wilberforce and Clarkson, whose object was to assist the poor creatures captured from slavers. For thirty pounds a purchase of land near the Sierra Leone river was effected from the native chiefs. Aided by liberal subscriptions, the Society sent thither a large number of recovered slaves from slave-ships. The ship *Nautilus* was the *Mayflower* of the dark-skinned emigrants. The Sierra Leone Company expended 100,000*l.* in less than three years to establish the colony. Some negroes were brought from Nova Scotia, and 500 Maroons from Jamaica. But the hopes of the good friends of the blacks were not realized. A paternal government failed to induce the people to apply themselves to agriculture. The

station was, 'however, worth maintaining, if only as a place on which to land captured slaves, and the English Ministry made it a colony in 1808.

Freetown, as the Company's settlement was called, is on the south side of the river, in lat. $8^{\circ} 30' N.$, and long. $13^{\circ} 20' W.$ The mountains are five or six miles off. The situation is not very picturesque. Mr. Stanley thought the sickness there has "not been due so much to the malaria, as to the fact that this town is surrounded by the Lion Hill and its hilly neighbours, between the gaps of which sweep the sea breezes, suddenly chilling the bodies of people who are enveloped by the close heat engendered within its bowl-like position." No yellow fever mounts to the barracks, on a rise of 400 feet.

Floods of wet seasons aid the malaria, and tornadoes are friends to clear it off. The dry spring seasons have the *Harmattan* withering desert winds. Thanks to the Health Department formed by Governor Hennessey, the sanitary conditions have been so improved that life assurance companies have reduced their rates.

The population is so various, that it is said fifty languages are spoken in the little territory. There are Mahometan Foulahs and Mandingoes, Timmanehs, Joloffs, Medis, Kroomen, Eboes, Akus, &c. Christian missions were established there as early as 1799 by the Church of England, Wesleyans arriving in 1811. A recent census of the settlement gave 18,660 followers of the Church of England, 17,098 of Wesleyans, 2717 Lady Huntingdon's Connection, 388 Baptists, 369 Roman Catholics. But the Mahometan trading missionaries from the interior are said to be making converts even among the Christian negro flocks.

Schools are supported by the State on the denominational system. These are for the blacks; as, out of 60,000 on the peninsula, only 200 were Europeans. Freetown has 25,000 inhabitants. The Governor of British West Africa resides there. While, in 1883, there were 1301 births, the deaths were 1464. Freetown had the enormous rainfall of 168 inches in 1879; 162 in 1880; and 143 in 1883.

The Isles of de Los had recently but six whites to 1400 coloured people. They are sixty miles north of Freetown.

BRITISH SHERBRO', or QUIAH country, to the south of the peninsula of Sierra Leone, is the rising quarter. Opposite the island of Sherbro' is the junction of about a score of rivers, with splendid openings for trade with the interior. That district is in charge of a Civil Commandant. In a population of 4300, the Europeans numbered fifty-two. The soil is very rich, and tropical products of all kinds flourish on the hills or alluvial flats. A fish trade on a large scale is carried on; salted or dried barracouta, &c., are exported. Oysters, turtles, and lobsters abound.

LIBERIA joins British Sherbro' southward, being on the *Grain or Pepper* Guinea Coast. The area is 20,000 square miles—two-thirds the size of Ireland—and the population in the settled parts is about 20,000, though over a million of aborigines exist within the territory.

Originally founded in 1822 by the American Colonization Society, it was intended as an independent colony of emancipated negroes from the United States, who were assisted thither by benevolent persons. A settlement was also made called Maryland. Under the protection of the Governments at London and Washington, an independent Black Republic was organized in 1847, with a President, &c.

It has not attracted freed negroes to a free home in their ancestral country, as they have so little interest in the culture of ground, preferring to be waiters and traders in American cities. The negro colonists are not in favour with the other black inhabitants. A growing trade with Western Mandingoes, and the enterprise of the sea-loving Kroomen, may help to revive Liberia. The products are like those in Sierra Leone. The climate is not an incentive to labour.

SIERRA LEONE RESOURCES.

The peninsula, on which most of the people are located, is of volcanic origin, the fruitful source of superior soil, though

the hardened volcanic mud has now the aspect of a sand-stone. If wanting in mineral resources, the country is full of agricultural ones.

The wet climate favours rice, cocoa, coffee, and cassava. Fruits comprehend the banana, pine-apple, plantain, guava, monkey-plum, custard-apple, sour-sop and sweet-sop, sour and sweet limes, loquat, alligator-pear, citron, orange, and papaw. The last may be cooked as a vegetable; the grandilla is like the papaw. The aboh-fruit (*Vahea*) has a slightly acid flavour.

Noble trees on the mountains provide plenty of timber; as the scrubby oak, the sulphur or brimstone-tree (*Mormida*), the African oak (*Oldfieldia Africana*), the African cork (*Musanga*). The myall, forty feet high, has a wood which gives the best of charcoal. Rubber-trees are in abundance, in the forests. Several fine trees are rich in valuable gum. Camwood, *Kambi*, is the source of an excellent red dye.

The Palm family is the mainstay of traffic. Exudations of gum or sap, toddy juice, and the nut-oil are eagerly sought after.

The *Elais Guineensis* is the best palm for oil. The productive clusters bear fruit the size of a chestnut, orange-coloured, and with a pleasant-tasting pulp. This pulp, procured in the season from February to September, is boiled in earthen pots, when the oleaginous matter concretes like butter, which is rolled into balls, and twisted by the fingers to squeeze out the oil. By the aid of machinery, this is more effectually done. The material, known as palm-oil, is largely used in the manufacture of soap and Price's candles. The white palmitic acid, which is not greasy, is turned into a superior sort of candle. The yellow grease for railway axles is a compound of palm-oil, soda, lye, &c.

The palm-nut, beaten out of the pulp in large troughs, provides quite a different oil, of great value. A palm may bear a dozen bunches of fruit, of from 300 to 400 nuts, and often two crops in the year.

The ground-nut, *Arachis hypogæa*, mostly exported to Marsilles, is the main source of French salad oil. The

fruit-stem bends down, so that the nuts are matured in the earth. The nut is roasted for native food, or converted into an oil, which is sweet, and with only a very slight smell. It is not a drying oil, and it congeals at 34°. Chocolate-makers are much indebted to the ground-nut, the *pistache* of old, the *pindar* or *arachide* now.

Kola- or Cola-nuts come, also, from West Africa. The trees bear twice a year. The pods are similar to the chest-nut. The plant is known as *Sterculia acuminata*. The nut is eaten, and is valuable in the arts, or for medicine. In 1860, the sale was only 2445*l.*, but rose in 1880 to 24,422*l.* The nuts of the Mothe-tree yield the celebrated vegetable butter. Doundaké bark is used instead of cinchona.

The seeds from the long gourd of the climber Telfaria are highly oleaginous. Ben- or benni-seeds have an oil, which at a low temperature separates into a thick substance and a thin one; the latter, not being greasy, is the oil of watch-makers.

The rubber-trees, of various sorts, are cut or slashed for the extraction of their peculiar sap. The native cotton fibre is manufactured into mats. Annatto, or arnatto, is a red dye from the pulp of the *Bixa orellana*. The fruit is macerated in hot water, and the pulpy deposit is formed into cakes or rolls. Spanish chocolate-makers add some to heighten the colour of chocolate.

The plantain provides the means for food, fodder, thatch, roping, cloth, fuel, paper, perfume, and wine. At first, the plants are kept under shade. On the third year, several suckers may yield many stalks with numerous bunches of fruit. These may be afterwards used in the fashion of dried apples, and are as sugary as figs. Gathered before ripe, the fruit is so rich in starch, that it is dried and ground into flour of a nutritive kind. An acre will give, perhaps, 6000 lbs. weight of fibre, which is profitably made into hemp. The celebrated Manilla roping is prepared from a sort of plantain.

Cultivation is conducted without a plough, but pays from the value of products like ginger, cassia, cassava, ground-nuts, coffee, rice, arrowroot, and various nuts.

Commerce in such vegetable products fluctuates. Imports were as low as 272,606*l.* in 1876, and up in 1878 to 524,418*l.* Exports were valued at 297,036*l.* in 1876, 391,646*l.* in 1878, and 377,055*l.* in 1884. The tonnage entrance of shipping the last year came to 195,688 tons. Tribal wars seriously interfere with trade, by arresting the transit from the interior. Thus, ground-nuts only brought 247,000*l.* from West Africa in 1880, through war, while the year before the amount was 608,000*l.*

The quantities exported in 1880 were 2331 packages of kola-nuts, 22,200 bushels of benni-seed, 6859 cwt. of gum, 16,801 cwt. of ginger, 247,707 bushels of ground-nuts, 263,318 bushels of palm-nuts, 292,306 gallons of palm-oil, and 829,636 lbs. of rubber, while only 40,756 in 1873, realizing 20*l.* per lb. The gum copal that year fetched 18,221*l.* The imports for 1884 were 406,474*l.*

In 1883, the exports of Sierra Leone included rubber, 89,782*l.*; palm-nuts, 81,578*l.*; benni-seed, 41,381*l.*; ground-nuts, 11,281*l.*; hides, 12,326*l.*; gum, 14,780*l.*; ginger, 13,409*l.*; rice, 7030*l.* The year before, rubber was 96,674*l.*, and palm-kernels were 99,246*l.* Palm-oil, then 562,606 gallons, brought 47,212*l.*, but only half the amount of cash in 1883. The duty on imports in 1883 was 36,203*l.*; on exports, 6150*l.* The total revenue was 76,213*l.* in 1884.

Of the imports, 323,572*l.* came from England; 34,071*l.*, United States; 19,631*l.*, Germany; 13,442*l.*, France. Of exports, 156,730*l.* went to England; 93,853*l.* to African windward coast; 42,266*l.*, France; 32,847*l.*, United States; 2884*l.*, Germany.

Kola-nuts pay export duty 5*s.* per cwt.; gum copal, 2*s.*; palm-kernels and benni-seed, 2*d.*; ground-nuts, 3*d.* Duty on palm-oil is a penny per gallon. Import duties are few.

The northern trade is in rice, hides, gum, ground-nuts, kola-nuts, benni-seed, and gold; the southern, in oil and rubber. The northern trade is in the dry season; the southern, in the wet one. As the coast merchants depend on what is brought down by tribes from the interior, they complain bitterly of the encroachments of the French

traders, who have managed to divert much of the inland river traffic to the French settlements of West Africa. Steam communication with England is frequent and regular.

THE GAMBIA.

This West African colony, 500 miles north of Sierra Leone, is on both sides of the great river Gambia. A small area only of the country is occupied, the rest belonging to various independent tribes. The Gambia is about 200 miles south of the Senegal river, at whose entrance is a French colony. The area is but sixty-nine square miles.

The British Settlements are on St. Mary's Island in the Gambia estuary, at British Combo, Albreda, Ceded Mile, and Macarthy's Island in the river Gambia, 190 miles from St. Mary's. The population is mainly at Bathurst, on the north side of St. Mary's Island, being recently 6140. There were 4050 in Barra territory, 3050 in British Combo, and 900 on Macarthy's Island.

Bathurst, $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N., is 480 miles north of Freetown, and 2600 miles from Liverpool. It is ten miles from the mouth of the Gambia. Most of St. Mary's Isle is a swamp. The want of salubrity is manifest in the fact that in the other year there were 408 deaths to 163 births in Bathurst.

The miseries of the climate are intensified by the drinking customs of the place. The rum shops abound. Even the white settlers, or *Africans*, too commonly indulge in brandy, heedless, says one, of swamps, "just when their heated, perspiring condition is most open to the attack of fevers," with the blood unnaturally excited by alcohol. The use of tobacco previously steeped for days in spirits, indicates an amazing disregard of the laws of health.

Trade with the natives is sadly connected with drinking. The author of *The Expiring Continent* remarks that the tribesmen "will deposit or exchange their millet to the last handful, or any other property, at a ridiculously low price for the 'trade brandy,' and starve their wives and families for the rest of the year." It is not wonderful that

fever, dysentery, and rheumatism should lay so many low, that deaths should double births, and that the friends of Christian missions despair. Albreda is not so badly situated as Bathurst, but the habits of the people are similar. Macarthy is most unhealthy and intemperate.

The inhabitants of the country are chiefly Mandingoes and Jallofs, powerful in frame, and far superior to the Negro races southwards. Mahometan in religion, and conquerors by war, they have been advancing as missionary warriors from the far interior down to the Atlantic shore. The men are well clad and well armed, with a capacity for trade. Their wives are industrious, and are well treated by men. They are very different to the miserable Blacks who dwell in and near the British settlements.

The Administrator of the Colony reported in 1884 a revenue of 24,959*l.*, with an expenditure of 29,482*l.* The Legislative Council consists of the Administrator, under the Governor at Sierra Leone, the Treasurer, Collector of Customs, Magistrate, and two unofficial members. British Combo and Macarthy's Island are ruled by a Manager. Recently, an agitation was set up for the surrender of the Gambia to the French in exchange for the settlement on the Gaboon, but the transfer was not effected, to the subsequent satisfaction of France.

GAMBIA RESOURCES.

Upper Gambia begins at Baraconda Falls, 300 miles from Bathurst, when a healthier country is gained, and one affording considerable advantages to trade. It is to be regretted that British influence has failed to carry civilization to the interior, or even to stimulate attention to agriculture and the working of minerals. A commerce of 212,122*l.* imports, and 199,483*l.* exports, for 1884, is not to be despised, especially when capable of almost illimitable extension, in spite of French zeal in mercantile adventure, and French policy toward barbaric chiefs.

Ground-nuts, bees'-wax, African oak, and hides are almost the only items of export. But rubber-trees, oleaginous

plants, gums and resins, ivory, rice, birds'-skins, ebony, coffee, bark, and gold, would be available for traffic. Gum-arabic is procured from a plant as big as a gooseberry-bush. The wild bees afford plenty of honey and wax.

An English trading company was formed in 1588, the year of the Armada, but did not succeed. The Gambia flourished as the seat of the slave-trade, and declined on its abolition in 1816. Once attached to Sierra Leone, it became an independent colony in 1843, though constituted in 1874 one of the British West Africa Settlements. It is a region capable of profitable expansion.

West African trade, now so eagerly sought by French, Germans, and English, can only be properly extended, with any reliable prospect for the future, by the elevation of the Natives. Sir. T. Brassey lays down the principle of action in no uncertain tones, saying,—

“We must co-operate with the native populations in the development of their resources; we must help them to accumulate wealth, or they cannot purchase our goods.”

Still, if European commerce be principally, or even considerably, in the line of the drink traffic, it is hard to see how native wealth can be accumulated. When, even in our own civilized and Christian land, a complaint is raised by butchers, drapers, furniture-dealers, &c., that so many customers are kept from them through the superior attractions of gin palaces, we cannot expect a barbarous race, with so little self-control, to withstand such temptation to waste of time and means.

It is gratifying to know that our Foreign Office and Colonial Office have striven to restrict this unhappy traffic in alcohol, though such efforts received little support from other European nations, whose traders are intent upon an immediate profit, though they kill the goose for a golden egg.

Mr. C. G. Salmon, in his *Crown Colonies*, boldly asserts—“British administration in West Africa has not been a success.’ He condemns the system of ruling the country as if there were no institutions in it, and wholly neglecting the influence of chiefs, which might be brought to bear to good

purpose; and he exclaims, "A noble career lies before any European people whose executive adopts this simple method of dealing with a great and much-wronged race."

Christian missions have been long established on the West Coast, but have had no success commensurate with great outlay, and the sacrifice of so many valuable lives, otherwise we should observe a happier effect on trade. Fetishism seems to have irresistible charms for the Negroid races, else we should not have the lapse into it among the supposed Christian negroes of the States and Jamaica. Such a system of belief is directly mischievous all round.

Some regard the advance of Mahometanism into that region as favourable to good morals, and useful to commerce. Certainly the religion of a book demands readers of the holy law, and serves as an incentive to education. The express prohibition of strong drink, if not universally heeded, must tend to the creation of a public sentiment against coast rum. The injunction that females should decently cover their bodies is a distinct call for Manchester cloths. The strengthening of authority, and the union of tribes in the bonds of religious brotherhood, may stay the terrible diminution of population there.

Overtures to our West African rulers have been recently made by the conquering and proselytizing Mahometan leaders, with a view to common action in the repression of native wars, and the opening up of a steady and safe trade between the coast and the interior. British dignity may have, for a time, slighted such offers; yet few can doubt that the real welfare of the inhabitants, not less than the progression of our trade, would be involved in such an alliance.

The French are a most serious obstacle in the path of the British trader. The rapid growth of French mercantile transactions is well known on the West Coast. Possessing Algeria and Tunis on the Mediterranean side, with an ever-increasing influence among the tribes to the south, our neighbours across the Channel boast of a practical hold on all the region down to the Niger. The mere enumeration,

in official documents, of the various States and sovereign chiefs with whom relations of trade, if not absolute Protectorates, have been now established, sufficiently confirm this impression.

Communication of an authoritative character is complete from the mouth of the Senegal to the port of Algiers. On either side of that line, between Morocco and the Soudan, the French are all paramount. Wherever that is the case, it means a practical closing of British commerce.

Now that Germans, for their own colonial purposes, have conceded so much to France along the whole western coast of Africa, a more serious blow than ever is struck against our trade, taxing to the uttermost the patience and resources of our merchants, and menacing so alarmingly the interests of British workmen.

These remarks apply to all our possessions on the Atlantic shore, and in the Gulf of Guinea. While the French competition is justly regarded with anxiety in one quarter, the immense activity of Germany in another is no less a cause of concern to our manufacturers, as that country has made so wonderful a leap forward in the production of articles once our monopoly, and as its commercial service is actively and ostentatiously aided by the State. It is no small source of regret that, while we had supreme control of that West African trade, we so failed to utilize it for the real civilization of the natives, and thus promote a lasting improvement of British trade.

GOLD COAST COLONY.

The upper Guinea coast has had from time to time a number of trading factories established by various European nations. The Portuguese were early in the field, and held forts. The Dutch, English, Danes, and lastly French, have severally had stations. A sickly coast was not likely to draw a permanent European population. Difficulties with the tribes interfered with peaceable occupation. Only a strong naval power could exercise authority there; and thus it has happened that gradually all the foreign ports,

with the exception of some small French ones, passed into British possession, from the Assini to the Volta.

Taking the coast east of 3° W. to the German territory of the Cameroons, with the exception of about a degree of longitude in Dahomey, separating the Lagos colony from that of the Gold Coast proper, British rule prevails. Apart from stations really belonging to our crown, the country between these, and inland northward from thirty to fifty miles, consists of British Protectorates, in twelve districts.

The several chieftains of the Negro tribes on the Gold and Slave coasts are thus under European control, with due deference to all native customs, excepting slavery, which is absolutely prohibited in any form within the protectorates.

The population, principally negroes, has become mixed up with others of kindred races more or less semiticised by the infusion of Arab blood from conquerors. In proportion to the admixture of Arab qualities, so is the degree of energy, and capacity for improvement. The Ffons of Dahomey, as well as the Ashantis, are far superior to the more purely negroid peoples, as the Fantis, on the coast.

The higher race came down as victorious invaders from the north and north-east. Unlike the Mandingoes, and other semiticised negroes, both Ashantis and Dahometans are fetish worshippers, not Mahometan believers in one God only. The negroes proper are not particular about religion, though relying on charms and fetishes. They are not of an industrious turn of mind, preferring a rude dance before a tom-tom to any employment, unless it be that of rum drinking.

Missions have been established on the coast by Catholic nations for hundreds of years, and by Protestants for a much less time, but all with little result.

As the colony is absolutely dependent for trade upon the produce brought to port by natives, the elevation of the coloured people would mean the extension of our commerce. So long as the traffic exchange on our part is so confined to the means of destruction in arms and strong drink, we can calculate little on an increase of the products of human

industry there, though a fertile soil affords such grand opportunities for agriculture. The influence of the civilizing missionary is too successfully neutralized by *trade rum*.

The hope of commercial men lies in the more progressive Ashantis and Dahometans, whose lands teem with resources. But while their despotic and cruel kings monopolize the trade, and import little beyond gunpowder, guns, and alcoholic liquors, change cannot be expected. Contiguity to British rule may gradually induce a more humane and popular government, to the development of fresh wants, and fresh incentives to exertion.

The climate has hitherto repelled Englishmen. A few officials, tempted by appointments leading to employment elsewhere, and a few merchants and factors, mere birds of passage, are not likely to effect much lasting good for the natives. The improvement in sanitary matters, a personal attention to hygienic rules, with a higher tone of morals in the locality, will prove that the Gold Coast is no more dangerous to the health of prudent Europeans than most other hot climes.

Formerly there were two colonics—Gold Coast to the west, and Lagos eastward. These are now under one Government, known as *Gold Coast Colony*. The Governor resides at Accra, to the westward, and Lagos and other more distant settlements are placed under deputy authorities. Laws are made by a nominated Legislative Council, the Governor presiding at the Executive Council.

GOLD COAST DISTRICTS.

From beyond Tando river, westward of Axim, to Great Popo, beyond Quitta, and toward Whydah of Dahomey, the country is called Gold Coast proper. This is from long. 5° W. to 2° E. The interior extends from five to eighty miles back, forming protected Territory, having Ashantis for northern neighbours.

The centre of Government was long at Cape Coast Castle, 900 miles south-east of Sierra Leone, 300 west of Lagos,

and 3000 from Liverpool. It was the site of St. George D'Elmina Castle, first erected by the Portuguese in 1481, but captured by the Dutch in 1637. It was because fevers seemed to prevail so much at Cape Coast Castle, that the capital was removed to Accra, on the London meridian.

Axim, whose fort Santo Antonio was built by Portuguese in 1500, though seized by Dutch in 1682, is in lat. 2° N., and has, perhaps, the most promising future of any station on the coast.

Accra and Quitta were Danish settlements, and were transferred to Great Britain in 1850 for 10,000*l*. German missionaries labour there. Factories exist at Winnebah, Elmina, Addah, Prampram, Secondee, Dixcove, and the River Volta. The total number directly under British rule may be 20,000, though above half a million are in Protected Territories.

The Royal African Company of 1672 was succeeded in 1750 by the African Company of Merchants, who continued to hold establishments till 1821, when these were transferred to the Crown, and placed under the Governor of Sierra Leone. For a time included among West Africa Settlements, the Gold Coast and Lagos were, in 1874, formed into an independent colony.

Dutch stations were so mixed up with British ones that, by agreement, in 1868, all west of Sweet river were declared belonging to Holland, and all east of it to England. The Dutch, however, found their portion more troublesome than profitable, and, in 1872, gave up all their Guinea possessions to Great Britain. The Danes had previously sold to us all rights on that coast. Before an assemblage of native chiefs, the Dutch authorities handed over to the English Governor the famous gold and ivory baton of De Ruyter, as an evidence of the transfer.

The warlike Ashantis have troubled the tribes on the coast, which were under our protection, in an attempt to gain access to the sea. This disturbance of the Fantis brought us into collision with their oppressors in 1827, 1863, and 1873. The capture of the Ashanti capital

Coomassie by Sir Garnet Wolseley led to a treaty, by which the Ashantis relinquished all rights over the Protectorate.

Ashanti extends from the river Volta eastward to long. 5° W., and from the Kong mountains southwards to the Gold Coast Protectorate. Coomassie is on the Prah, which reaches the sea by Secondce, west of Cape Coast Castle. The Tando and Assinee are other fine streams. The population is three millions. The king has an enormous harem, but no Amazons like as are known in Dahomey. The country is rich in gold, copper, titanium, and the fruits of the ground.

GOLD COAST RESOURCES.

The revenue for 1884 was 125,953*l.* The imports were 527,339*l.*; and the exports, 467,228*l.* Mountains and rivers are auriferous, forests contain valuable timber, palm plantations yield abundance of oil, wild bees provide honey and wax, but the soil receives too little attention for much vegetable produce.

Splendid woods are being recklessly destroyed. Camwood is exported. The Bombax or silk-cotton-tree rises 100 feet. There are umbrella, tulip, butter, and monkey-bread-trees. The *Landolphia owariensis* is one source of Indian-rubber. The rubber vine is a climber, having a stem four to six inches thick. The fruit is the size of an orange. By cuttings of both stem and branches, as much as five pounds of the glutinous sap may be obtained, and which is often collected by being rubbed on the arms and body at the time. In 1882, the rubber fetched 250*l.* per ton; and the year after, two shillings and ninepence per lb. Balata, an intermediate substance between the rubber and gutta-percha, is taken from a tree, growing in swamps, which may reach sixty feet clear of branches.

The shea-butter-tree bears an oleaginous fruit, which, after being smoke-dried or baked, is reduced to powder. Thrown into boiling water, the greasy material rises to the surface, and is ladled off. The solid is white and hard. Much used in cookery, it was preferred to cows' butter by

Mungo Park the traveller. Often called *Niger grease*, it is an indigenous bassai, and has brought 50*l.* a ton. The green, sweet fruit grows upon a huge forest-tree.

The wild cotton has an excellent staple. The akashe sort is the best, being soft and silk-like. A little bow is used to separate the fibres, and give a floss-like appearance. Guinea grass is *Panicum maximum*. The Guinea *Solanum dule* is the size of an apple. The *Solanum* has a berry, from which a violet dye is procured for silk. The maize is often converted into *ekko* or *eggidi*, by being finely ground, and kept in water till sub-acid. The fine residue is boiled and eaten as oatmeal.

Palaver sauce, so called from being eaten at a palaver or council of the tribe, is thus described by Captain Burton :—
“The material is fish, flesh, and boiled fowl, with yam or koko, flavoured with onions, or shalots, ground cocoanut, malaguetta and other peppers, red and green okros or occros (*Hibiscus esculentus*) in large quantities, and lastly refined palm-oil, which gives the goût. In blackman’s palaver sauce they insert affitti or agiri, a condiment about as aromatic as bad asafetida.”

Fishing occupies much attention on the coast, as dried barraeouta, &c., form an article of commerce. There are Lakewellings in the inland lagoons, inhabited by fishing tribes. Sea-god offerings, and prayers to river fetishes, are not neglected to ensure success. Ulcers are the penalty of the favourite indulgence in half-rotten fish. Herrings are often cured in ashes to save the expense of salt; that commodity has brought fourpence a handful in Ashanti.

Cowries pass as coin in Africa. It is troublesome to pierce a hole in each little shell, and string it upon fibre. A bag of blue African cowries will contain eighty or ninety lbs.; but one of the smaller and more valuable Indian variety, from thirty-five to forty-five lbs. A string has forty or fifty cowries, and five strings make a bunch. Ten bunches, or a head, would be worth a two-shilling dollar. A bag of ten heads has about 20,000 shells. A score of heads are valued at an ounce of gold dust, or 4*l.*

Among the Gold Coast exports for 1883, palm-oil was worth 208,721*l.*,—being 2,655,014 gallons; palm-kernels, 61,543*l.*, 7429 tons; gold dust, 52,435; ivory, 2580*l.*, rubber, 2372*l.*; ground-nuts, 1924*l.*; camwood, 1681*l.*; Guinea grains, 1646*l.*; cotton, 1308*l.*; copra, 1278*l.*—114 tons; bees'-wax 64*l.* The National African Company has the principal trade on the coast.

Gold gave rise to the name of the coast. Great quantities of dust and nuggets have been exported in peaceful times. Most comes down from Ashanti. The simple natives are, for a consideration, provided by traders with a manufactured article from Birmingham with which to adulterate their gold dust, but which scarcely deceives the coast buyer, though giving extra trouble in the extraction of the foreign substance. The dust is sold at a dollar an ackie. Nuggets are sometimes buried awhile to grow bigger. Certain places must not be searched, or the fetish will, it is said, strike the offender blind.

Gold has been taken from the street roads, and washed from the sea sand, though river *débris* constitutes the chief source of supply. Shallow pits are sunk in certain red clays for it. A negro woman, with a wooden platter, may make her couple of shillings a day in gold-washing. There are magnificent deposits of auriferous earth, which could be worked by the hydraulic process when the country is opened up. The parent rock, however, has fine veins of the precious metal in the quartz. This stone, after being roasted and broken, is ground by the women on stones used for grinding meal.

Mines are being now scientifically worked by Europeans. Others are being better managed than formerly by the native chiefs. From Elmina, in the seventeenth century, the export has reached as much as 3,000,000*l.* a year. Even in 1880, the amount sent from port was 125,980*l.* The king of Gyaman has gold steps to his bed. The king of Ashanti keeps his favourite fetish in a large gold box.

As an encouragement for the enterprise to European diggers, one reports seeing a native obtain three ounces in

half an hour from a small round hole. A traveller writes, "The auriferous clays of the Gold Coast are thinly covered with humus." Again,—“From three pounds of its yellow clay, gathered at random, we washed about fourpence worth of gold dust, upwards of eight pounds a ton.” It has been proposed to have flumes and sluices to carry off the golden subsoil to the seaside.

The chief gold districts are Wasa, Akim, and Gyamen. A Frenchman, M. Bonnat, is there called “the father of the modern gold-mines.” The African Gold Coast mine, of French and English capitalists, obtained concessions of auriferous land, and work upon the tribute system.

Ground is leased. One, upon the payment of 120*l.* at the beginning of extraction, secured 4000 square yards at a rental of 12*l.* One mine got 30,000*l.* of gold from 30,000 tons of earth in the year. An Englishman’s rock vein brought him fourteen ounces per ton of quartz. The Takwa French mine at the Bein mission is worked on tribute.

Of the Gold Coast Mining Company at Aboutiyakon, it was said that a ton of auriferous quartz cost five pounds to carry down to port Axim, while the expense of reduction, &c., came to nine pounds. Yirima, where king Blay works, is said to be “choke full of gold.” A person estimated that in one place the profit on the procuring of 180,000*l.* of gold was 150,000*l.* There is a French company at Abosu with a capital of 250,000*l.* But with many fine finds there are not a few blanks.

LAGOS.

This part of the Gold Coast Colony now declared an independent one, is on the eastern side of Dahomey, extending to long. 5° E. from long. 2° E. along the Bight of Benin. It was ceded to the Crown by the native prince Docemo in 1861, upon a pension of 1000*l.* a year. Whydah, capital of Dahomey, is between Lagos and Accra.

Lagos Island has Badagry on the west, with Palma and Leckie on the east. Lagos has the only safe harbour, in

spite of a bar, for a distance of 600 miles along the coast. It is opposite the mouth of a river connected with the series of lagoons stretching parallel with the coast. Badagry is at the mouth of the Ossa. Lagos is 230 miles from the Brass river, 450 from the Cameroon, and 700 from the Gaboon.

The Protectorate includes the kingdoms of Katame and Appa, and has been recently extended as far as the Benin river, which is the western boundary of the new Niger Protectorate. A sea-board of 500 miles of British rule lies between the west of Katame and Amba Bay eastward.

Among the negro tribes are the Egbas, Ibadans, and Jebus, whose intestine wars have often arrested trade communications. The independent kingdom of Dahomey, north and north-west of the Lagos Protectorates, is inhabited by the Ffons, among whom exists the system of Amazons or female warriors, and between whom and the Abcokutans fierce wars have long continued. The granitic town of Abeokuta, in the Protectorate, is in lat 7° N. Ake is the capital of the Egbas, whose women eat not with the men.

The population of Lagos island is 60,000; and, in the Protectorate, 30,000 more. Among the Whites, at the last census, were forty-five Germans, forty-four British, five French, four Swiss, three Portuguese and four Americans. In Lagos, during 1883, were 223 births, but 784 deaths. The European mortality was ten per cent. The villages have suffered much from the devastations of war, and the abominations of slavery.

Sickness is very prevalent from climate and bad habits. For the prevalent African fever, Dr. Livingstone had this remedy:—"Six or eight grains of resin of jalap, and the same amount of rhubarb, with four grains of calomel, and four of quinine, made into pills with spirit of cardamoms; the whole is a full dose for a man. On taking effect, quinine in four grains, or larger doses, is given every two hours or so, till the ears sing, or deafness ensues; this last is an essential part of the cure."

Captain Burton knew the fever of the Gold Coast, and left this description of it:—"Preceded by full head, dry skin,

blue nails, cold finger tips, and other normal symptoms, it was succeeded by nausea, by a rigour that lasted barely thirty minutes, and by the pyretic stage, which after an hour and a half passed off in a profuse perspiration. There is nothing unpleasant in these attacks ; rather the contrary. The excitement of the nerves is like the intoxication produced by a plentiful supply of strong green tea ; the brain becomes uncommonly active, peopled with a host of visions, and the imagination is raised almost to Parnassus." He adds, "Such attacks are by no means so dangerous as an English bronchitis or influenza."

There is no constant rainy season, though four months are dry, and eight are wet. The wet months April, May, October, and November, are healthier than the dry.

LAGOS RESOURCES.

These are pretty similar to those described under "Gold Coast." But the revenue, in 1884, for this part of the colony was but 57,932*l.*; the imports reached, however, the large amount of 538,221*l.*, while the exports were 672,414*l.* Of the exports, 249,794*l.* went to England ; 283,727*l.*, Germany ; 81,410*l.*, Porto Novo. Of the imports, 338,318*l.* came from England ; 151,251*l.*, Germany ; 6128*l.*, France. There is no public debt on the colony.

In the year 1883, palm-oil, 1,971,359 gallons, brought 186,637*l.* ; palm-kernels, 25,820 tons, 278,302*l.* ; cotton, 9419*l.* ; benni-seed, 4595*l.* ; ground-nuts, 123*l.*, ivory, 42,755 lbs., 10,794*l.* ; and manufactures, 93,479*l.* The shipping during 1883, was 176,127 tons, in steam-vessels ; of which the British had 148,341 ; Germans, 25,876 ; French, 1910. The tonnage of sailing-ships entering was 17,555 ; of which, German was 7730 ; French, 4241 ; Italian, 2943 ; and Norwegian, 1201. Tonnage, 1884, was 383,571.

The productions of Lagos include, cassava, or wood-flour, sesamum oil, okros, tiger-nut, physic-nut, palm-tree fibre, silk-cotton, smoke-dried shrimps, and other fish. The native silk, someye, is taken from a worm feeding on the leaf of a

kind of fig-tree. Among the imports may be mentioned salt, an article much in request among inland tribes. As an African merchant, Mr. Swanzy deserves honourable notice for his zeal in scientific research throughout West Africa.

VICTORIA, of Ambas Bay, under the lofty Cameroons, was a Baptist missionary station, lat. 4° N., long. $9\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ E., with land purchased along twelve miles of coast from native chiefs for 2000*l.* of goods.

A Baptist mission had been on Fernando Po since 1840. When the British Government gave back the island to the Spaniards, the persecuted Protestant blacks took refuge in 1858 on ground procured in Ambas Bay opposite, and the Mission was named *Victoria*. Upon interference by the Germans of the Cameroon Settlement, 1500*l.* compensation was obtained, and the place was made over to the Crown.

The town, on Morton Cove, is four miles from the cone, Mount Henry, and not far from Mount Cameroon, 13,000 feet high, so admirably situated for sites of sanatoria. There is always a sea breeze at Victoria, and the soil is remarkably rich. It is admirably situated for commerce. In Ambas Bay are Mondori and Ndami or Dameh Islands, of basaltic formation. The whole district round is a volcanic one. Victoria is only one hundred miles from the river Niger.

NIGER PROTECTORATE.

The mouths of the river Niger have been for many years seats of profitable trade, that is now worth three millions a year. West African produce has been brought from the interior down that broad stream, and its affluent the Calabar, or Cross, a great oil river. The Bonny is the main channel to the New Calabar. Boussa rapids stop the Niger traffic.

The commerce, however enriching the whites, has not advanced the blacks in morals and happiness. The Bonny trade had long a bad reputation for its effects on the well-being of Europeans. A beneficial change is apparent from what Mr. Stanley records in his recent visit:—"A pros-

perous trade seems to keep every one busy in one of the saddest and most gloomy climates I have ever experienced. The great fear of the climate, however, is vanishing from the minds of men. The factors live well, and in comfortable houses." This will be an aid to health and general propriety.

Influx of wealth has enabled African chiefs to live in barbaric splendour, with no progress in higher civilization, while their people are terribly given to such indulgences as degrade and shorten life. Long the centre of a lucrative slave-trade, and long the prey of strong drink, this region of low races has been the theatre of such scenes of violence and disorder as to call loudly for intervention, if only to prevent disturbance to trade for the Europeans.

The Berlin conference, recognizing the predominance of British interests there, consented to a British Protectorate, that should make the navigation and trade on the Niger as free as they were to be on the Congo. The *Gazette* of June 5th, 1885, declared the territory to extend from British Lagos on to the west bank of the mouth of the Rio del Rey, long. $8\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ E., inclusive of both banks of the Niger from the sea to the confluence of that river and the Binue at Lokoja, and 230 miles up the Binue to Ibi. The German Protectorate of the Cameroons meets the British line at the Rio del Rey. By this arrangement, and the annexation of St. Lucia Bay, &c., the line of African coast brought under the sway of Great Britain will be 2500 miles in extent.

The Niger, beginning as the Kwara at Mount Loma, flows E.N.E. of Sierra Leone to Timbuctoo, 2600 miles. It is navigable from Bamoko to the port of Timbuctoo. Cataracts succeed for 1000 miles, and then it is navigable for 600 miles. The wider Binue from the east is navigable 450 from its junction with the longer river, or 750 from the Niger's mouth. The Ibo, 140 from the sea, is a maze of unhealthy canals. From Benin to the Bonny river, the twenty-two entrances of the Niger are found over a coast of 280 miles.

Mahometan Foulahs predominate, having rule over the more ignorant negro tribes, and they avow a resolution to conquer all from Timbuctoo to the Congo. From Darfur and

Bornou these pastoral warriors have extended their conquests. Fanatics and slavers, they are rich and enterprising. Their town Yakoba has 150,000 inhabitants.

The warlike Housas make capital police and soldiers in the British African Settlements. Mungo Park was drowned in the Niger 1805, Major Laing traced it to Timbuctoo 1821, and the Landers brothers followed it in 1830 to the Nun sea mouth.

Most Niger trade is conducted by the energetic National African Company, that have 100 stations from Boussa to the Kwara, and along the Binue to Yola 750 miles. Altogether, they trade along 2100 miles of river banks. The Binue leads up into the interior towards Lake Tsad. Could tribal wars be stayed, and slavery arrested, the possibilities of African commerce can scarcely be conjectured.

The Niger Protectorate has excited pleasing hopes in those who wish well to the debased population, and the friends of true civilization are energetically seeking the employment of Government influence as much in the extension of good as the repression of evil. Mr. Thomson, the traveller, has just concluded a treaty with the King of Sackatoo, for the African Company, which will give it command of the Niger trade as far as Timbuctoo, as well as that of the Benin river. This will tap the Sahara trade. The German Company on the Niger has a capital of half a million.

ST. HELENA

THIS lone volcanic island of the South Atlantic is in lat. 16° S., long. $5\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ W., 1200 miles from the African shore. Ten miles long and six broad, the area is 30,000 acres. The highest point, Diana peak, is 2700 feet; but Longwood, where Napoleon resided six years, 1815 to 1821, is 2000 feet. Lot and his wife are two pillars of basaltic rock.

Discovered by the Portuguese on St. Helena's day, May 21st, in 1501, it was next seen in 1588, when our Cavendish was on his voyage round the world. Possession was taken

by the English in 1668, but a settlement was made by the Dutch four years after, though seized by a British vessel in 1673. The East India Company got it by Charter from Charles II. It was declared a Crown Colony in 1833.

Once covered with timber, reckless destruction left the country bare, notwithstanding abundance of showers. The hills are of lava, but limestone near the beach is a relic of former coral reefs. The soil produces excellent vegetables, supplied to vessels calling in. Excepting manganese and iron, no mineral of value is known. The mean rainfall is 43 inches. The lowest temperature known was 52°, the highest, 77°. Remarkably healthy, the death-rate of 1883 was only ten in the thousand at James Town, the settlement.

Two landing-places only exist, James's Bay and Rupert's Bay. The population, almost entirely of African origin, 5000 in number, are content to enjoy a quiet life, without despairing because the Suez Canal route has taken away the trade they formerly had, from calling vessels to and from the East. Native trees, if nurtured, would be valuable. They are Gumwood, Angelica, Wild Olive, Redwood, Sandalwood, Dogwood, St. Helena tea.

The Government is administered only by the Governor. The revenue for 1884 was 10,421*l.*; the imports were 63,780*l.*; the exports, 23,406*l.*; though only 1543*l.* in 1882. Fibres prepared from New Zealand flax, with provisions to visiting ships, are the sole exports.

ASCENSION, seen on Ascension day, May 20th, 1501, is 850 miles north-west of St. Helena. It is an utterly waterless, crater-form isle, eight miles by four. George Town was occupied and fortified while Napoleon was on St. Helena. The only green spot, Green Mountain, is 2840 feet high. Fossil turtle eggs are seen in recent limestone.

MAURITIUS.

THIS lovely and most fertile island in the Indian Ocean is 2000 miles from India, 2300 from the Cape Colony, and

500 from Madagascar, while 110 from French Réunion, formerly Bourbon. It lies between $57^{\circ} 17'$ and $57^{\circ} 46'$ E. longitude, and 20° to $20^{\circ} 32'$ S. latitude. The length is forty miles, and the area 713 square miles.

Abounding in volcanic rocks, it has many extinct craters. The Pouce hills, 2707 feet high, appear behind Port Louis. Peter Bott rises 2685 feet; the Rempart, 2710; the Bambou, 2200; the Piton or Peak of Rivière Noire, 2900. The noble-looking Trois Mamelles mount 2340. The old volcanoes flooded the island with materials for the richest of soils. Rivers are abundant from the highlands in a region of heavy rains. The Rempart, Black, Tamarind, Poste, and the two Grande rivers fertilize tableland and coast districts.

Lying in the pathway of hurricanes, the island has to encounter the destructive fury of winds, while blessed with grateful showers. The diameter of the terrible cyclone of 1868 was 400 miles. The hurricane hot season is from December to April. The wind is usually south-east from May to October, and then E.S.E. to E.N.E. A change to west is not appreciated, because of the nervous affections it brings. A trip to Curepipe and Reduit up in the hills, is welcomed in summer. The South-East Trades bring but little rain.

The rainfall, as a mean, is forty-three inches at Port Louis, forty-seven at St. André, thirty-three Black river, seventy-one Wilhems Plains, 960 feet high, one hundred Grand Bois, 550 feet, one hundred and twenty-four Esperance, 1450 feet, and one hundred and fifty at Cluny of Grand Port, 1000 feet. In 1877, Cluny had two hundred and three inches.

The mean shade temperature of Port Louis is 82° in January, and 72° in July. The barometer is 29,843 inches in February, and 30,191 in July. The fall of rain averaged $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches for February, $6\frac{1}{2}$ for January, $3\frac{1}{4}$ December, and less than an inch for June and October. The range at the capital is from twenty to sixty-eight inches.

The health is affected by the heat and miasma more than by the rains, for the wettest quarter, in the hills, is the healthiest. Fever is most to be dreaded, being of the

malarious kind. The years 1867-8 were very fatal. Quinine tends to wither up the fungoid causing the disorder, and which gathers on the membrane of the stomach. The spores of these fever and ague plants float abroad. The green of stagnant water is from a similar organism. Want of cleanliness among the Indian Coolies and the Chinese adds to the plague.

Discovered by the Portuguese and named *Cerno*, in 1505, Mauritius was found without inhabitants. The Dutch, in 1598, took possession, settling Grand Port, near Port Louis, in 1644, and making their island Mauritius a receptacle for Dutch convicts from the east. Labourers came from Madagascar; who, upon the retirement of the Dutch in 1712, became lords of the island, and were known as Maroons. The French came two or three years after from Bourbon, and named the new home *Isle of France*; they had some trouble to subdue the Maroons. Mahé de Labourdonnais, the governor, formed Port Louis. The English under Sir John Abercrombie gained the position in 1810, and restored the old title of *Mauritius*.

Port Louis, the fortified capital on the north-east side, has a fine harbour. The beautifully-situated Pamplemousses is six miles off it; Flacq, 21; Mahébourg, of Grand Port, 30; Souffleur, 30. Reduit, or Moka, is 950 feet high.

The island is in nine districts; viz., Port Louis N.W., Grand Port S.E., Flacq E., Pamplemousses N.N.W., Rivière-du-Rempart N.N.E., Savanne S., Moka, Wilhems Plains, W., and Rivière Noire S.W.

Pamplemousses is the scene of the story of Paul and Virginia; the latter was a real person, but the former was the ideal of the French author. The Black river district is picturesque in rocks and cascades. Dutch settlers of 1690 originated Wilhems Plains. Moka is in central highlands, having a Malagassay village of persecuted Christians.

A line of railway connects Port Louis and Mahébourg; and another, the port with Grande river forty miles off. Port Louis has fine buildings in the Chaussée and Royal Street. The Place d'Armes is in front of the quays. The bazaar is

very large. There are two cathedrals. The Botanical Gardens of Pamplemousses is the oldest and, perhaps, the finest in the colonies.

The inhabitants are of European, East Indian, African or Chinese descent. The French blood prevails in the old settlements. African slaves supplied the labour of old. When freed in 1834, the men had no wish to work in the plantations. Coolies were therefore engaged from India for a term of years, to be returned home, if required, at the end of their service. Many, however, prefer to renew their engagement. They are heathen or Mahometan, having temples or mosques for worship. They improve in appearance and circumstances by the change.

The Roman Catholic Christians are a dozen times as many as the Protestant ones. The Government grant aid to both churches, as well as to the schools under their care. The Hindoos and Mahometans are also provided with schools. In 1883 there were 246,678 Indian people out of a total of 361,094. In 1884 there were 158,373 females in the colony.

The Executive Council is presided over by the Governor. The Legislative Council consists of nine official members, three non-official appointed by the Governor, and six elected.

RESOURCES OF THE MAURITIUS.

The geology is favourable to agriculture. The lavas furnished superior soil. Granitic and metamorphic rocks provide good building-material. The black diorite prevails at Black river.

The forests, with forty-five timber-trees, have nearly all disappeared in the clearance of land for plantations. The trees are of the evergreen tropical character, thriving with the heavy rains. Among the useful ones are the Natte, or Monkey-apple (*Imbricaria*), the Makak, Tata Maka (*Colophyllum*), Bois de Olive, Bois de Fer (*Stadtmannia*), Bois de Sandal, Colophan, Tumbalacoque an ironwood (*Sideroxylon*), Pomme (*Eugenia glomerata*), Puant, or stinkwood (*Fœtida Mauritiana*), Red Teak, Red Fir, Oak, Benzoin, Ebène bâlard,

(*Diospyros*). There are seventy-five species of orchids, and some of the ferns run to thirty feet.

The conservation of forests, and the planting of trees, will be of great service. But the revenue of 39,660 rupees does not cover an expenditure of 148,503 in two years. Over a thousand species of flowers are known.

Fish in rivers and bays are plentiful, and turtles furnish an article of commerce. The Chinese are particularly engaged in the catching and drying of fish, much of which is used with the rice staple food. The banks of coral around the island are fishing-grounds.

The exports of the colony exhibit the main resources to be those of the soil, favoured with warmth and moisture. The imports denote the wants which the island cannot supply. A good year of importations is connected with one of increased exportations. The exports for 1884 were 3,941,757*l.*; and the imports, 2,963,152*l.* The revenue was 860,958*l.*; expenditure, 907,281*l.*; debt, 749,000*l.*

Among the imports for 1884 were rice, 442,887*l.*; manures, 287,951*l.*; grain and pulse, 233,266*l.*; cotton goods, 164,533*l.*; wine, 112,038*l.*; hardware, 86,111*l.*; machinery, 55,337*l.*; wheat, 30,746*l.* The imports from India were 990,992*l.*; England, 692,430*l.*; France, 478,245*l.*; Australasia, 243,078*l.*; Madagascar, 101,689*l.*; Peru, 70,305*l.*; Cape, 35,784*l.*

The exports of sugar were, 3,572,683*l.*; rum, 44,867*l.*; cocoanut, 8758*l.* India took 1,671,233*l.*; Australasia, 1,173,740*l.*; England, 508,331*l.*; Cape, 178,244*l.*; United States, 112,565*l.*; Madagascar, 87,678*l.*; France, 64,636*l.*

Import duties are per gal. spirits, 8*s.* 8½*d.*; wine, 8¾*d.*; beer, 7½*d.*; per cwt.—wheat, 6½*d.*; maize, 7¼*d.*; flour, 9¾*d.*; dried fish, 12*d.*; salt meat, 2*s.*; butter and coffee, 4*s.* 5*d.* An *ad valorem* of 6¾ per cent. is on salt, candles, soap, oil, glass, iron, leather, cotton, linen, silk, woollen, glass, &c. Rice pays 6½*d.* per bushel. Machinery and coals are free. Tea pays 1*d.* per lb. There is an export duty of 3¾*d.* per cwt. on sugar.

Sugar has for some time been the principal of the resources

of Mauritius. The "Indian salt" of the ancient Greeks doubtless came from China to India, and so on to other places. The cane reached Sicily first in Europe in the thirteenth century, arriving at the Madeiras and the Canaries in 1420. St. Thomas, of America, had no less than sixty sugar factories in 1530. The French did very little with the cane in Mauritius.

The progress of the industry is thus indicated in the return ; 1812, only 467 tons of sugar ; 1822, 11,283 tons ; 1845, 42,217 ; 1853, 91,772 ; 1860, 131,049 ; 1863, 122,432. Then came a decline, greatly owing to fearful hurricanes, disease, and competition. In 1868, the hurricane year, the produce was but 95,754, rising the next year to 103,065. The distribution during 1870 was as follows :—to Australasia, 99 $\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds ; to England, 76 ; India, 59 ; France, 22 ; the Cape, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$. In 1880 there were 122,000 acres in cane, being a fourth of the area in cultivation.

Plantations there have been systematically and scientifically conducted. The limited extent of land and continued tillage necessitated extensive use of manure in the form of guano. Machinery of the best description is employed. The original varieties of cane were the Creole or Indian, the Batavian, and the Otaheitan. Those most approved of now are the Guingham, Bamboo, Belloguet, and Diard. After being first soaked in carbolic acid and water, the canes are planted in December, January, February, and March, and the reaping takes place toward the end of the year.

The planter has other foes than tempests. There is the *Borer*, first observed in 1850. The worm from an egg eats into the stem with the aid of a lance-like instrument in the mouth, and is a most voracious creature. The *Pou-blanc* is a Coccus, which only attacks weakened or diseased plants, sucking the nourishment by means of a long probe.

Coffee plants suffered so much from the hurricanes, that they were gradually supplanted by the cane. Now they are planted about seven feet apart, and not allowed to grow above six or eight feet high.

Spices have not succeeded well there. The nutmeg

requires not only great and sustained heat, but very frequent rains, as in its native Moluccas home. The cloves are generally too small. Rice had given way to sugar, though now, through reduced sugar prices, it may again occupy attention. Some tropical fruits, as the mangoustan, require more showers than fall in the island.

Now under a cloud, in common with all sugar-cane countries, Mauritius possesses so much capital and resource, that its recovery from depression is but a matter of time, though the gathering crowd of tropical competitors may not permit a return to the prosperity formerly enjoyed. It is satisfactory to note that while imports averaged seventy four rupees a head, the exports were one hundred and five.

DEPENDENCIES OF MAURITIUS.

These are most important in the value of resources. Some seventy islands, scattered over a thousand miles and more in extent, own the government of Mauritius. The chief of them are Rodrigues, the Seychelles, the Oil Isles, the Chagos, St. Paul, &c.

Rodrigues, 350 miles east of Mauritius, is eighteen miles long by four to six broad. It has noble hills of granite and slate, with a coral band outside. Its inhabitants, nearly all Africans, are about 1500 in number. The healthiness of the locality is evidenced in the fact that the births are four times the deaths. The death-rate lately was less than half that in England. The country is enjoyable in landscape and salubrious in climate, although four degrees within the tropics. It once had the curious bird *Solitaire*, now extinct.

It is a pastoral, rather than an agricultural settlement. Herds of cattle and many goats supply the wants of Islanders, and yield a handsome profit in exportation. Fish are also salted and sent to Mauritius. Fruits do well in the fertile soil. Oranges and citrons are particularly good. Every kind of tropical produce can be successfully raised, while wheat and potatoes thrive as favourably. Only labour is needed to make the island one of the most prosperous of

settlements. The one serious drawback is the prevalence of severe hurricanes. The bright and bracing atmosphere, the wooded hills, abundant springs, groves of palms, delightful mangoes, pineapples and bananas, stalactitic caves, and a merry population are all attractions to the visitor.

The Seychelles Islands are, however, the most valuable dependency. The thirty islands reach to within four degrees of the equator, nearly a thousand miles from Mauritius. Once the haunts of pirates, they have now been turned into fruitful plantations. The Mauritius Director of Forests recently reported, "Seychelles is one of the richest-producing spice countries in the East." General Gordon called it *Eden*.

Mahé, the principal island, has a pleasant-looking seaport, Victoria, with towering hills of granite and basalt, profitable forests, and soil of rare fertility. Of 35,000 acres, 12,000 are in cocoanuts, and 500 in cloves, vanilla, and other valuable products. The island gained the prize for vanilla at the last Paris Exhibition. A vanilleric of five acres yielded 250 lbs. an acre, a profit of 125,000 rupees upon the plantation. The cloves would be a greater success if more carefully gathered. The tobacco has a great reputation. The cacao-trees, bearing in five years, give a capital bean. The Liberian coffee promises a large return. Cotton is superior in fibre.

Cattle graze on the hills, which are clothed with such valuable woods as the Bois-chauve-souris, the Bois-de-matée, Badamier, Gayac, Tatamaka, &c., so useful in ship-building and for furniture. Tortoise-shell is one of the exports. The coralline shore supports extensive lines of cocoanut-trees, affording large quantities of oil and copra.

Among other Seychelles may be named Ile Cousin, Ile du Nord, Ile Frégate, Denis, Bird, La Digue, Praslin, Félicité and Silhouette. The last, 3000 feet high, is remarkably fertile. Several islands are of coral formation, and are dependent upon the cocoanut plantations, to the satisfaction of people with a lazy turn of character. In full bearing at twelve years of age, the trees will continue to be

a splendid source of income many years with no trouble to the owner. On Praslin and Curieuse is the botanical curiosity—Coco de mer, the double nut.

The Seychelles extend over 900 miles of ocean, containing 13,000 inhabitants, and exporting 634,000 rupees.

The Amirantes coral group, 140 miles west by south of Mahé, are famed for cocoanuts. A disease, however, affecting the plant, through the assault of a *borer*, will gradually bring black care upon the easy-going natives. The Cosmolado group, 600 south-west of Seychelles and 200 north of Madagascar, supply timber, goats, and the land-tortoise. The healthy Chagos group of six isles are a thousand miles from the Mauritius, the uninhabited Trois Frères are 1150 miles off, and Carragos is 250. The three Gloriosa Isles, 100 north-west of Madagascar, trade only with the French of those parts.

The Oil Isles, as Agalga, 550 miles from the seat of Government, abound in cocoanuts, but export also cattle, turtle, and salt-fish. The nine Farquhar Isles have pearl, oil, and turtle resources. On the Oil Islands recently were 757 men, 265 women, and 305 children. Only sixty square miles in extent, the yield for the year was 320,000 gallons of coconut oil, worth 430,000 rupees. Cocos or Keeling Isles are in latitude 12° S.

Diego Garcia Island, lat. 7°, twelve miles by six, one of the Oil Isles, is of increased commercial importance since it has become a coal station for the *Orient* line of steamers to Australia. It is 1050 miles from Mauritius, and has a population of 400. The twenty-six isles of Peros Banhos are famous for oil, as are those of Egmont and Coetivy.

Amsterdam is a volcanic island far south-west of Mauritius, with some grass and a little water; it rises 2700 feet. St. Paul, sixty miles to the southward of it, has a crater into which the sea finds a passage. It is nearly halfway between Australia and the Cape, though one of the dependencies of Mauritius.

Should France obtain a secure footing in Madagascar, Mauritius would be greatly influenced for good or evil. A

formidable rival might appear in trade or production, while being a standing menace in a political sense. Many of these loosely-held dependencies of the Government at Port Louis have been expected to gravitate toward the French, especially if they should ever obtain a Protectorate in Madagascar.

NATAL.

THE enterprising Portuguese of the fifteenth century, after being the first to round the Cape of Good Hope, sighted this south-eastern African territory in 1497 ; it being then Christ-mas Day, kept in honour of Christ's birth, the pious Vasco de Gama called the place *Natal*.

The Portuguese neglected Natal and the Cape, as they did many other places discovered by them, but utilized by the Dutch and English. For nearly two hundred years, Europeans knew nothing of it. A Dutch ship wrecked there in 1686 brought the coast under notice, as the crew were a year there, preparing a craft by which to return to Cape Town. An attempt in 1721 to establish a Dutch post there was not successful.

An English lieutenant of marines, Mr. Farewell, was attracted to the spot in 1823, and endeavoured to get the British Government to form a colony. Failing in his object, he got a small party to go with him in 1824, and gained the protection of the Zulu King, Chaka. Four years after, they had to retreat from Natal Bay.

The next trial at colonization was made by some Dutch Boers, resident in Cape Colony. Not approving of the action of Parliament in setting free all slaves in our colonies, though paying the masters for the property, a number of pastoral settlers left the boundary of British rule in 1837, and trekked north-eastward to Natal of the Zulus. Dingaan, the king, causing the murder of some of the new-comers, found that Europeans were more difficult to manage than the poor Kaffirs he had destroyed or driven from the country. Through the Dutch help, Panda, a brother of Dingaan, gained the throne.

It was upon information of these proceedings, that the Cape rulers sent a military force to take possession of Natal. The Boers, after a vain struggle, yielded to necessity in 1840. In 1843, the country was declared a British Colony. At first it was placed under Cape authority, but in 1856 independence was proclaimed, and settlers from England began to flock thither.

The subsequent history of Natal has been mainly occupied by questions relative to the coloured people.

In 1873 a difficulty arose with the native chief Langalibalele, whose tribe was on the north-western border. A conciliatory policy averted a serious struggle. Native law and custom would be, naturally enough, very different to British ideas. In regions like Australia, where natives were few and defenceless, the land of the aborigines was seized without compensation, and their persons were made subject to English ordinances, while every privilege of citizenship was withheld. In other places, as New Zealand, where our policy of dominion was resisted, fierce wars ensued, and a compromise had to be effected.

Natal, through the oppressive cruelties of Zulu chiefs outside the border, received hundreds of thousands of Kaffirs and Zulus proper, flying for shelter under our flag. Prudence dictated the necessity of legal arrangement. A native high court was established, to guard native interests. Any tribesman could be judged by native law in cases affecting tribal questions, though amenable to British jurisdiction in criminal cases. Magistrates acted thus in harmony with the chiefs of the various tribes, whose dignity suffered no loss in the eyes of their people.

Further interference with native customs, particularly in respect to marriages, was suspended, to the peaceful settlement of native questions within the border. The contribution paid by the natives toward the Colonial Government, by which they were protected as much as ruled, was a hut-tax to the amount of fourteen shillings a year. This was no burden to a really wealthy people in farm produce and in cattle.

The Zulu difficulty outside continued. The brutal force, by which that invading nation has destroyed, perhaps, two million of Kaffirs, was ever a menace to European and native neighbours. Cetwayo, crowned through British influence, but unwilling to break up his military organization, got into collision with our Government, that had shielded the Boers of Transvaal from his high-handed proceedings. The impis of the warlike monarch were successful awhile, especially in the slaughter of our soldiers at Isandlana, just outside the Natal north-eastern border, in 1879. The battle of Ulundi turned the scale, and broke up the Zulu power. The subsequent interference of Boers with Zulu lands has added to the anxieties of Natal settlers, and compelled the British authorities to assert themselves. The taking possession of St. Lucia Bay in Zululand secures our control of the neighbourhood of Natal. We retain the Zulu Native Reserve.

The selected boundaries of the settled territory are the Tugela river on the Zululand north-eastern quarter, Transvaal Republic to the extreme north, the Orange River Free State on the north-west, Basutoland westward, Griqualand and Pondoland south and south-westward. The Drakensberg mountains form the barrier on the side of Orange State and Basutoland. The Indian Ocean laves the coast of 170 miles on the east.

Between latitude $27\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and 31° S., and longitude 29° and 31° E., Natal is about 250 miles long, containing 21,150 square miles, or thirteen millions and a half acres.

It is a land of mountain and flood. The ascent from the shore is along three successive terraces. The rise is 2000 feet from Port Durban to the capital, Pietermaritzburg. But Drakensberg towers 9600 feet. There are, therefore, three distinct portions:—the highlands, the coastlands, and an intermediate district. Wide spreading tablelands afford excellent pasturage for stock.

The Drakensberg ranges are connected with the western Katlamba mountains. Biggarsburg rises northward 6000 feet; Ipoko is 7200; Grant's Kop is 9650; and the southern border, not less than the central plateau, can show some noble

elevations. All these, especially the Drakensberg, give birth to fine rivers. The Tugela runs between Natal and Zululand; the Mooi flows north-east to the Tugela from Giant's Castle; the Umgeni reaches Port Natal; the Umvoti, Umbari, Umzimkulu, and Umkomansi gain the Indian Ocean.

In climate, the colony varies considerably from the variety of elevation. The coastlands have more rain than some hilly districts. Durban the port received 83 inches on 103 days in the year when Pietermaritzburg, 50 miles up the country, and over 2000 feet in height, had but 43 on 125 days. Yet Durban, in another year, showed 42 inches only. The high-land capital, on a series of years, averaged but 30 inches. Durban had a fall of over 20 inches in two days in 1857. The interior generally is not favoured with so many showers. The prevalence of southerly and easterly winds off the ocean is a great comfort to the colonists.

The heat is greatly tempered by the mountain ramparts on the border, not less than by sea breezes. The hilly lands have more chilly airs in winter, and hotter breezes in summer, than the low coast country. Ice has been very occasionally known at Pietermaritzburg, though the annual mean temperature of the place is 65° , with that of Durban at 69° . A local authority observed that "the mean temperature of the day jumps fitfully up and down during the season of summer." In the mountainous Klip river division, hot winds are often troublesome, though the winters are cold enough for evening fires.

The great predominance of sandstone and granite ranges is thought to add to the intensity of summer heat, though broad bands of volcanic basalt mitigate the evil. Thunder-showers, particularly common in Natal, are alleviations of high temperature. They are very valuable in the uplands by supplying the lack of rain deposits from ordinary sea breezes. One unfortunate result of such heavy and sudden thunderstorms is a destructive flooding of river valleys.

As a rule, Natal climate is very pleasant, leading one to exclaim, "What wonder that few who have enjoyed this climate ever leave it for any other!" The coastlands are

often sultry and even muggy in summer, though nearly perfect weather prevails in winter.

As to health conditions, the equable temperature, and general softness of air, along the Indian Ocean shore would be grateful indeed to one class of invalids, while another would prefer the bracing mountain atmosphere, in spite of its blustering, and the varied thermometer, and notwithstanding the rough and frequent thunderstorms. The pure, dry breath of the hills is much admired by consumptive subjects, though the warm dry weather of Port Natal is so beneficial to consumptives in winter.

Natal is divided into counties. Pietermaritzburg is a large central county, Durban is the central coast one. Victoria is on the Zulu side, while Alexandra and Alfred are on the southern sea border. Ixopo is between the Umkomansi river and Griqualand east. Umvoti is north of Pietermaritzburg, and Weenen east of it. Klip river division is between Weenen and the Drakensberg mountains, having Upper Tugela to its south, and Newcastle north.

The port is connected by rail with Maritzburg, and is being continued northward toward the coal-mines. Another line to Verulam northward by the shore will go onward through the plantations and pastures to Zululand. Colenzo, Howick, Ladysmith, Newcastle, Estcourt, Weenen, Greytown, and Tugela are rising settlements.

Beyond the Drakensberg westward is the flourishing Orange River Free State of the Boers. Basutoland to the south of that State has splendid pastures, and had a hopeful class of natives before drink robbed them of industry and moral force. Griqualand, to the south-west of Natal, is a progressive part. Zululand northward abounds in noble pastures, rich valleys, and extensive and healthy highlands. The possession of St. Lucia Bay gives the British rule a practical existence from Natal to the Portuguese Delagoa Bay, which is the sea entrance to the inland Boer Republic of Transvaal.

The population is a very mixed one, and curiously dis-

tributed in the various districts. The Europeans are of English and Dutch origin. The natives are of different tribes. The Indian coolies were introduced on our plantations, because Kaffirs preferred cultivating their own fields to any engagement under the whites. In 1883, there was a total of 418,723. The Africans came to 359,841 ; the Hindoos to 26,978 ; the Europeans to 31,912.

District.	Whites.	Indians.	Kaffirs.
Pietermaritzburg. . . .	6105	759	3309
County of Pietermaritzburg	4627	1211	97,576
Durban Town	8236	4169	3812
Durban County	2598	3812	18,536
Klip River County . . .	3210	153	31,362
Victoria County . . .	1930	14,219	58,819
Umvoti „ . . .	1975	100	40,649
Weenen „ . . .	1591	223	30,338
Alexandra „ . . .	552	2309	23,352
Alfred „ . . .	623	21	30,130
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	31,912	26,978	359,841

The population at the end of 1884 was 424,495.

Two-thirds of the Europeans are near Port Natal, or among the central highlands. The natives are pretty uniformly scattered. The Coolies mark the plantations, or agricultural quarters. In 1845, only 40,000 African people dwelt in the land. Now, thanks to the security enjoyed under British rule, there are at present nearly ten times that number ; the great majority fled thither, out of the way of such fearful destroyers as the Matabeli and Zulus. The many missionary stations among the tribes, under English, Scotch, Dutch, American, German, and Norwegian Protestant Societies, besides Roman Catholic ones, are aiding successfully in the advancement of the natives, and the progressive development of the colony's resources.

FOREST RESOURCES.

Once a heavily timbered country, it is now becoming, like so many other places, more bare and dry. The whites are too few to effect much change ; but the Kaffirs are very

reckless with trees. Commissioners recently reported, "The natives everywhere are viewed as the natural antagonists of the forests. In the construction of each of their ordinary huts, from five hundred to a thousand saplings are required." Mr. Zietsman wrote, "The timber forests have been most deplorably ruined." Mr. Ralfe said, "One-third of the wood has been destroyed since I first, twenty-five years ago, knew this part of the colony." Bush fires from carelessness have sadly thinned the forests.

Many of the trees correspond with those in Cape Colony. The principal are Sneezewood, Yellowwood, Ironwood, Stinkwood, Spokewood, Umzumbiti, Red Ivory, Wild Chestnut, Mimosa, Aloes, Kaffir plum, &c. The Stinkwood (*Laurus bullata*) gives out an unpleasant odour when sawn or planed. It is useful to wheelwrights. The Yellowwood (*Taxus elongata*) may be fifty feet to the first branch, and its timber is most valuable. Some prefer the wood of the Bastard Yellowwood, when dry. The Sneezewood (*Pteroxylon utile*) is an evergreen. The sawdust is so pungent as to provoke sneezing. The timber is too resinous for furniture, but admirable for posts in damp places. Being so resinous, it burns like a torch. The Ironwood is an *Olea*. Acacias of some species are very serviceable.

Though licences are granted to timber-cutters, some men from ignorance will cut down a tree worth 50*l.* for common firewood, and spoil a mountain forest to obtain a limited supply. A sawyer's licence is rated according to the saws employed, though little or no oversight is exercised over the parties. In six districts, there were lately 33,000 acres of heavy timber on Crown lands, while 16,000 on private lands; but 190,000 acres of Mimosa on the Crown, and 1,160,000 on the other properties. Many Australian *Eucalypti* have been successfully planted on the lower grounds.

PASTORAL RESOURCES.

Natal is a fine cattle country; although, as Mr. Popham has remarked, "The one great drawback of Natal pasture

is that, owing to the long dry season, very little green grass is to be found in winter."

Sheep have not done quite so well as in Australia, and are said to suffer from scab and blue tongue. They now number above half a million of wool-bearing kind, and a few hundreds only of the Cape hair variety. All these are held by British and Dutch settlers. The natives pay no heed to the wool, and content themselves with some 40,000 to 50,000 fat-tailed but not wool-bearing sheep.

Cattle, however, are in large numbers. The Europeans had recently about 180,000 head, while the natives depastured 450,000. The trade in stock is considerable, and one mode of warfare is the *lifting* of a herd.

Horses, owing to the plague of the tsetse fly, are but 20,000 in the hands of our people, and rather more belonging to the coloured race. Salted horses, that have survived an attack from the local horse-sickness, have a greatly increased value, as they are not liable to a fresh attack. The disease is called *Inflammation* by Englishmen, and *Gall-Ziekte* by Dutch. The wet and hot seasons are worst for the epidemic, and some localities are worse than others for frequency of the affection. It is so severe in certain districts of South Africa that the passage of horses involves almost absolute loss. Mr. Mackenzie, in his work, *Beyond the Orange*, has this description of the disease :—

"An hour after (the attack) it stands in the utmost distress, its eyes sunken, with a swelling above the upper eyelid ; the breathing is rapid, laboured, and stertorous ; froth fills the mouth and nostrils, and perspiration drops from the animal, which, however wild and skittish before, is tame enough now. This acute inflammation frequently runs its course in an hour or two. After death a large quantity of a frothy, greenish-coloured liquid is discharged from mouth and nostrils. It is considered a good sign if, when seized with this deadly disease, the horse coughs frequently, and brings up quantities of this froth. There is no cure for this disease."

By avoiding the tsetse fly districts, the animal can be saved one trouble, but the inflammation is a terrible contagion. A

saulted horse may well be worth six or eight times as much as an unsaulted one ; but it is clear that, however well sheep and cattle may do in South Africa, a serious obstacle exists to the formation of horse stations. There are but 20,000 horses.

The Angora goat, whose mohair covering fetched so good a price in London markets, was introduced into Natal, which now contains about 100,000 of these useful creatures. Of the ordinary goat, there are 70,000 belonging to Whites, and more than three times that number to the Kaffirs. Ostriches have not of late years been so successful as was anticipated. Feathers have paid well, but disease had troubled the ostrich farmer.

Pigs are more favoured by Europeans than natives, the former keeping, recently, 16,000 to 9000 by the latter.

Although the absence of rain for months in winter is trying for pastoralists, yet the grass is nutritious, if dry, and the climate is favourable to stock. Sheep could not be expected to thrive in the lower, damper districts ; but the weather is no objection to cattle and horses, while the long, coarse but nourishing grasses provide an abundance of food. Mimosa groves and thorn thickets are admired by sheep-masters. Wild beasts, being almost wholly of buffalo and deer varieties, are not troublesome to flocks, though the lion is known at no great distance off in Transvaal. The hippopotamus, elephant, giraffe, and baboon are no hindrance to farmers, though crocodiles have been known to seize a sheep in the north. The stock drover has an abundance of sport in the great variety of antelope and spring-bok, ostrich and wildebeeste, monkey and giraffe.

Pastoral leases of from 500 to 5000 acres are to be had for ten years, at a penny an acre rental. The wool is not quite up to the Australian standard, but has shown great improvement of late years. The export for 1883 was 15,826,915 lbs., but 17,330,981, worth 523,377*l.*, in 1884.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

Soil and climate are admirably suitable, according to position, for both English and tropical productions. The

mere list of fruits at the late Pietermaritzburg show will illustrate this assertion ; containing, the orange, guava, lime, lemon, shaddock, strawberry, raspberry, citron, cherry, rose-apple, tamarind, loquat, pomegranate, Avocado-pear, apricot, walnut, currants, papaw, gooseberry, sweetsop, plums, melon, grape, pear, apple, nectarine, mulberry, fig, pineapple, ground-nut, banana, custard-apple, plantain, grenadilla and mango.

The Botanic Gardens at Maritzburg and at Durban have done excellent service in acclimatization, with the distribution of foreign seeds and plants. In the hills a variety of economic plants suitable to the temperate zone have been raised, while those available for sultry lowlands have had attention near the coast. It is encouraging to note that forest culture has received marked regard ; in one year no less than a quarter of a million trees were planted in Pietermaritzburg county. In that locality five and twenty sorts of grass are in culture. The native grass, Tambootie, admired by cattle, reaches a height of six feet.

As to corn,—mealies, maize or Indian corn, is chiefly cultivated. Wheat can be grown in hilly districts, but will not pay carriage to port. South Australia has, therefore, sent the colony bread-stuffs. Barley and an extensive variety of roots succeed well enough. Vegetables are according to elevation of country. In the uplands, every sort in use among us in Britain may be found. Lower down, the tomato, artichoke, and sweet potato flourish.

The sea border is favoured with soil and a dripping climate in summer. There spread the plantations. Sugar, coffee, tobacco, arrowroot, tea, cotton, can readily be raised, in addition to maize. Cotton, however, has failed to be now remunerative, and has lately nearly ceased in cultivation. Sweet potatoes and arrowroot are grown largely for food on the spot.

Tea, with Coolie labour, promises well. One writing from Nonoti, was sure tea "will prove a mine of wealth," and 1885 was expected to yield 50,000 lbs. Moist parts are necessary.

A small plantation of five and a half acres gave, as early as in two and a half years, an average of 250 lbs. an acre ; but another, over five years old, realized 800 lbs. an acre. It has been shown that it could be grown for eightpence, and sell in London for tenpence. A coolie man would pick 20 to 28 lbs. of leaves in the day. Those with patience to wait for five-year-old trees can calculate upon a handsome profit. The best leaf is produced near the coast. A great saving will be experienced when a central factory can prepare the tea for market from a dozen or so plantations near. A capital of 500*l.* is thought sufficient for this really pleasant culture.

The tobacco has a fair reputation in the market, though still needing more scientific care in preparation. Rice, which could do so well in the swampy intermediate districts, has thus far been neglected, as it can be got cheaper from India.

Coffee has come to the front lately. In Middleton's *Manual of Coffee Planting* we read, "In Natal I find that the coffee-tree bears most abundantly, and with certainty, for the first three or four years ; but afterwards the crop is very uncertain both in quality (well-formed beans) and quantity, owing, I think, to a deficiency of good bearing wood." He suggests that the rows should be ten feet by five, and in four years to plant again between the rows. He would cut down the first lot in seven years, and after a rest plant again. An eastern aspect and a soil holding most water should be preferred. One put cotton-trees between the rows for protection and shade. From forty to sixty holes, three feet diameter and eighteen inches deep, might be dug in one day. The cost of picking, by Kaffir women, is sixpence a day. During the last year or two progress has been made in coffee planting.

Sugar is, however, the staple crop. Natal, like all other cane countries, has suffered from beet bounties. Home-made mills are used, and the Natal varieties are said to maintain a good position.

The Central Sugar Company have 1000 acres at Mount

Edgecombe. The Victoria and other companies are at work. The favourite canes seem to be Green Natal, Gold dust, Purple, and Tamarind. Of course, the growth is on the warm sea-coast lands. The central mill system is being adopted. Usually the miller gives the producer two-thirds of the product in sugar and rum. The Kaffirs have not gone much into cane.

Other industries could be made profitable. Fibres could be utilized. Already the tuber-rose, for perfume, has been successfully raised.

The returns for 1883 give the best idea of the tillage. There were then, by Europeans, 40,389 acres in maize, 12,637 sugar-cane, 7836 oats, 2779 potatoes, 2318 wheat, 1739 sweet potatoes, 1384 tobacco, 1084 beans, 860 coffee, 419 barley, 429 Kaffir corn, 209 arrowroot, 208 mangold, 177 turnips, 74 oil-nuts, 35 pepper, 34 cotton, 33 tea. Fruits and vegetables occupied 2562 acres. Kaffir corn is a millet.

In that year the natives grew 81,580 acres of Kaffir corn, 94,231 of maize, 8813 of sweet potatoes, 1132 of pumpkins, 236 of tobacco, and 112 of sugar-cane. Of the crop in 1884, the natives had 262,567 acres; and the Whites, 72,678.

In 1884, the export of sugar was 235,713 cwt., worth 185,131*l*. Only 3614 lbs. of cotton, and 1932 cwt. of arrowroot were exported.

The difficulties attending labour for plantations have already been noticed. With a dozen coloured to one white, labourers appeared in plenty. And yet, from Kaffir laziness or indifference, the colony had to send to India for coolie hands.

A serious evil followed the inordinate grasping of colonial land by a small number of greedy monopolists, who took early advantage of any facilities to extend an acreage, which has been practically useless to themselves, and mischievously obstructive in the way of honest immigration.

Mr. Pearce, the enthusiastic advocate for the colony, pleads for a class, possessing enterprise and energy, some knowledge of farming, and the moderate capital of from 500*l*. to 2000*l*. But it is disappointing to arrive and find the good land

swallowed up long before in the best available localities. The very fact that only two out of twelve millions of acres are available for sale is a damaging confession.

Some organizations have been useful. The *Natal Land and Colonization Company*, having a capital of 365,000*l.*, had purchased on nominal terms an immense area. They are now prepared to lease tracts for sheep-farming, offering the inducement of experienced advice on the spot to novices in the management of sheep. A man with a thousand pounds could thus set up a sheep station on their territory. That is unlike the cheap rental of pasture in Australia direct from the State.

Since responsible government has existed, some steps have been taken to make the best of what remains. By paying 5*l.* a year for ten years a settler may secure a freehold of 100 acres. Township land is from 10*l.* to 25*l.* an allotment. Blocks of country land, 320 to 1000 acres, cost a pound an acre, payable in three months. A purchase can be made another way. The tenth part of the cost, together with expense of survey, is paid down, and the balance can be made in annual payments of a tenth, subject to certain regulations as to improvements. Pastoral leases are had for ten years at the rental of a penny an acre.

Special settlements can be arranged for certain communities, or bodies of friends. A party of Norwegians have been thus located at Shepstone, to the advantage of themselves and of the colony.

Without doubt, Natal land will be made available as necessity impels a Legislature to act in the interests of the community at large.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

Until quite recent years, Natal gave little sign of wealth in rocks. The great Sandstone formation of South Africa, the fruitful source of so much desolating sand, was known to form the chief part of the mountain buttresses of the colony. Granite, also, extensively showed itself, with some igneous veins, as at Klip river, of more modern date. Marble

of a superior kind is presented, especially on the banks of the Umzimkulu.

Coal, however, has come very prominently to the front. Four counties display the really precious mineral ; viz., Klip River, Weenen, Umvoti, and Victoria. These occupy the northern portion of the colony. There is one great patch of coal formation, fifty miles by twenty-five, in the extreme north, between the Buffalo river and the range dividing Natal from the Orange River Free State. Another, fifty miles by five, in Victoria county, extends north-east of Durban to Tugela river. More central deposits, of smaller area, are observed in Umvoti.

In Klip county, part of the extensive field is up at an elevation of 4000 feet, and evidently extends far beneath other beds. There is a workable area of 1350 square miles up to the Drakensberg range. One seam of three feet, with two feet nine inches of good coal, contains only fifteen per cent. of ash. The official report says, "The average thickness of the coal in this workable area may be taken at four feet." The geologist estimated the amount there at over two thousand million tons.

Mr. North thus reported to Government on the mineral at the Newcastle of North Natal :—"Coal heavy, hard, with irregular fracture and much earthy matter, but black and glistening. Burns with a crackling noise in the furnace, with a brownish flame." The furnace, however, was soon choked. Of another sort, at Dundee, he wrote :—"Cubical, compact and deep black, takes fire easily, and burns with a long, bright, yellow flame. Smoke brownish black, burns with great heat, and makes steam quickly. Ash light grey. Clinker has a tendency to melt into heavy, massive flakes, with glassy fracture, and a brownish red appearance. The coal in the solid state in the seam is hard and bright, and is about four to nine inches thick."

At Cinderford, including partings, the thickness in one place was fifty-three inches, and in another sixty-six. The Klip river beds have been much dislocated and destroyed by intrusions of basalt.

In his South Kensington report on Natal mineral, Mr. Frankland said, "The coal is inferior in quality to that which is obtained in this country. The large percentage of ash and of sulphur contained both in it and the coke reduce their value for steam, and unfit them for metallurgical purposes." The colonial engineer rightly remarked the unsuitability of surface beds as a test of the carboniferous resources.

One specimen gave carbon 71·85 ; hydrogen, 4·77 ; nitrogen, 1·89 ; sulphur, 3·83 ; ash, 13·09 ; water, 1·56. The Dundee figures were coke, 82·93 ; sulphur, 4·18 ; volatile compounds, 16·63 ; ash, 12·41 ; water, ·44. Umraki stood at carbon, 65·40 ; volatile, 15·69 ; ash, 17·25 ; water, 1·66. Gladstone anthracite was carbon 92·34 ; volatile, 4·99 ; water, 2·67.

Iron abounded near coal. Mr. F. N. North, the mining engineer, wrote, "I am inclined to think (except that limestone is scarce) that few colonies have more resources for manufacturing iron than Natal." Ore from near Dundee had this South Kensington analysis ; iron, 62·15 ; silica, 2·33 ; manganese, ·07 ; sulphur, ·05 ; water, ·53.

COMMERCIAL RESOURCES.

It is to be regretted that, although a score or more of fine rivers gain the Indian Ocean, the streams are not navigable. The old lumbering Dutch waggons, with their span of oxen, have been the only means of conveying produce to the coast. The railways henceforth will be an effective mode of transit. The seventy-eight miles of rail to Maritzburg, twenty to Verulam, seven to Isipingo river, were followed by an extension toward Ladysmith, 200 miles from the port.

The geographical position of Natal has been long held to be an objection. It seemed out of the world, and away from important routes. That objection is being now rapidly removed. Formerly only connected in commerce with Cape Colony, it will before long find itself associated with awakening East Africa. Part of the produce of Transvaal will, doubtless, always reach European markets that way, and Zululand has a brilliant future before it on the cessation of internal disorder. But the Portuguese Mozambique and valley of the Zambezi,

moved by the activity in the Congo regions, are so rapidly developing as to give early significance to the value of Natal.

The recent German annexations in East Africa, the known importance of the Kilimanjaro territory, the great movement approaching in Madagascar, the gradual but sure drifting of mercantile business southward through the Suez canal, and the wonderful leaps and bounds of Australasia, all tend to the hopeful future of Natal's commercial relations.

It must be confessed that the progress, in respect to European settlers, has been decidedly slow. The colony has not gone ahead as its founders expected, nor have the efforts of the early colonists been rewarded commensurate with enterprise. And yet there has not been any fault found with the soil and climate of Natal. A mere handful of Whites have been thronged by an immigration of Blacks, driven across the border by bloodthirsty tribes; and these warlike Zulus, ever a menace to civilization, have been a standing cause of anxiety with Europeans, who were threatened with destruction, and who certainly were paralyzed in adventure by the overwhelming dread. Many were wearied looking for quieter times, and betook them to Australia or other quarters.

And yet a review of trade gives decided encouragement. In 1843, only 489 tons of shipping arrived, and the exports were valued at 1261*l*. In 1852, the imports were 103,701*l*. to 27,845*l*. exports; 1872, 825,252*l*. to 622,797*l*.; 1883, 1,751,107*l*. to 831,757*l*. The large import of 1882, 2,213,538*l*., was due to war's expenditure. It was easy to say that Natalians welcomed hostilities for the sake of British treasury bonds; they would have very much preferred the contributions of peace, and engagement in regular employment on their own lands.

The tariff of Natal is far more liberal than that of the Cape. A large proportion of articles subject to heavy duty in the latter colony are free in the former. Among the exemptions are pig-iron, salt, rice, roofing-slates, seeds, wheat, fresh fruit and vegetables, coal, casks and staves, bread-stuffs, books, music, machinery to be employed on the produce of Natal, flour, and agricultural implements.

By the gallon, beer is charged 9*d.*; oil, 3*d.*; wine, 3*s.*; spirits, 9*s.*

By the pound, cheese stood at 1½*d.*; butter, 3*d.*; gunpowder, 6*d.*; unmanufactured tobacco, 6*d.*; manufactured, 2*s.*; cigars, 4*s.*; tea, 7*d.*; oils, 3*d.*

By hundredweight, bacon, jams, candles, and preserved meats were 9*s.* 4*d.*; coffee and chicory, 8*s.* 11½*d.*

All grain, not wheat, paid 1*s.* per. ewt.; and sugar 3*s.* 6*d.* Cotton, silk, glass, linen and woollen goods, with other articles not mentioned otherwise, paid 7 per cent. *ad valorem*, but refined sugar 6 per cent. Guns were charged 1*l.* per barrel, and pistols, 5*s.* Stamp duties are levied.

The imports of the colony have been considerably in excess of the exports from early days. In 1852 the imports were 103,701*l.*, while exports were 27,845*l.* The relation in 1865 was 455,206*l.* to 210,254*l.*; 1875, 1,268,838*l.* to 835,643*l.*; 1880, 2,336,584*l.* to 890,874*l.*; 1882, 2,213,538*l.* to 731,809*l.*; and 1884, 1,675,854*l.* to 957,918*l.*

It has been usually the same with revenue and expenditure. In 1852 the first was 27,158*l.* to the other at 24,876*l.* In 1865, it was 118,146*l.* to 160,153*l.*; 1873, 207,392*l.* to 173,277*l.*; 1880, 582,715*l.* to 477,100*l.*; 1883, 620,496*l.* to 697,264*l.*

Natal receives much commercial advantage as the medium of communication between both the Orange River Free State and Transvaal with the seaport. Newcastle, in the north, takes much of the Free State wool, and sends coal into the Boer settlements.

In 1883 returns of exports, sugar stood at 122,084*l.*; wool, 519,161*l.*; hides, 53,012*l.*; maize, 19,491*l.*; hair of angora goats, 15,062*l.* for 319,998 lbs.; skins of sheep and goats 447*l.*; rum, 3846*l.*; arrowroot, 3317*l.*; fresh fruit, 2257*l.*; rhinoceros horns (303) 345*l.*; ground-nuts, 227*l.*; cotton, 44*l.*

The exports for 1884, 957,918*l.*, included wool, 523,377*l.*; sugar, 185,131*l.*; hides, 81,876*l.*; skins, 11,694*l.*; feathers, 11,946*l.*; ivory, 4755*l.*; arrowroot, 3322*l.* The imports for 1884 were 1,675,850*l.*; apparel being 155,174*l.*; haber-

dashery, 141,416*l.*; hardware, 52,263*l.*; machinery and railway plant, 141,303*l.*; coffee, 62,410*l.*; cotton goods, 76,955*l.*; leather, 77,928*l.*; beer, 54,097*l.*; woollens, 57,010*l.*; rice, 46,924*l.*; tea, 12,926*l.*; wine, 12,961*l.* Many of these went in trade with natives.

Exports are materially affected by labour difficulties. The Natal Almanack for 1885 remarks, "Native labour is not easily procured, as Kaffirs are too lazy to care much about work, and their fathers are losing the control they formerly held over their sons, so cannot compel them to go out to service." In some cases payment is made to chiefs, who order the men off to work.

Indian Coolies have not always satisfied the English farmer. When their five years contracted service has expired, they like to get a piece of land of their own, however small, "preferring being their own masters with hardships to loss of freedom with advantage." And yet it is admitted that "the respectable and industrious population amongst the Indians is in a prosperous and satisfactory condition, and many are rapidly acquiring wealth."

The Natal law is just and kind to the Coolies. These are watched over by a Board and Protectors. All estates on which they are employed are under State supervision. Regulations as to rations, and medical aid, are strictly enforced. Where the Government provide medical attendance, masters are required to pay a shilling a month for each worker. After fulfilling the five years' contract, they are free to make their own terms of engagement. At the end of ten years they can, if they wish, secure a free passage back to India.

Another obstacle to increased exports, and the limitation of European settlers, is the locking-up of so much of the best lands, and that in most available localities. An illustration in Alexandra county is given by the last almanack:—

"Unfortunately, 26,000 acres of land in this county, much of which is eminently capable of bearing sugar-cane, is in the hands of the American Mission Society, and cannot be got by Europeans, and is lying unproductive, and will do

so, for the mission native does not appear to be capable of the sustained labour necessary to develop the land."

The export of ostrich-feathers is progressing, realizing about 4*l.* the pound weight. The delicate product is dirtied by the soil; but it is better to send it away for proper cleansing than attempt to clean it on the spot ineffectually. The London buyers have twenty classes of the feathers. Parts of Natal are too damp for the ostrich, which can bear heat or cold, if not accompanied by moisture. The birds thrive on the thorn shrub, if provided daily with some mealies corn, and not cooped up in small areas.

The growing Public Debt, now 3,250,000*l.* is heavy for a weak colony. Still, the recognized resources, the climatic salubrity, the beauty of landscape, and the moderate distance from Europe, must bring Natal before the notice of contemplating emigrants, and especially those provided with some capital.

Natal and Cape Colony have both been strengthened by the British occupation of intermediate country. While Kaffraria and other native territories, lying between Algoa Bay of the Cape and the Natal southern and western border, were under independent and restless warlike tribes, the safety of property, if not of life, was jeopardized in our settlements. Their control by Great Britain is a guarantee of protection to settlers.

The future of Natal is particularly dependent upon the course adopted by our Government in relation to Zululand. As Natal itself was a seizure of native territory by emigrant Boers from the Cape, so is Zululand sought to be appropriated by the same sort of aggressive treckers. Our recent occupation of St. Lucia Bay, the outlet of the country, founded upon a treaty with Panda, the sovereign of the Zulus, in 1843, will effectually checkmate the Boer efforts.

No part of South Africa, and scarcely of any side of the continent, can have fairer prospects than Zululand. It is healthy, in spite of summer heat and insect accompaniments.

The pastures are of almost unexampled excellence. For farming purposes, in the hands of Europeans, the land is

splendid. The rainfall, though deficient, like South Africa in general, is fairly good. But as to minerals, from the precious metals down to building stone, the region is, perhaps, at least equal, if not superior, to any other portion of Africa.

It will thus be clear that British occupation of Zululand will be of enormous interest to Natal colonists, and a prevention of Boer rough treatment of natives. No one can question the good that would arise from the genuine civilization of a race so energetic and intelligent as the widely-extended tribes of Zulus. They are certainly, in *physique*, mental character, and adaptiveness, at the head of all the southern, western, and eastern African peoples. Under judicious management, they would become good customers of English goods, producing by labour the means for such purchase.

Natal has got along so comfortably with the hundreds of thousands of Zulus who have sought shelter therein, that there is no reasonable doubt of Zulus beyond that border settling down in peaceful employment under English rule, especially with the protection then afforded to missionaries.

Portugal approaches Natal at Delagoa Bay, and its Mozambique domain is met at the north and the west by the recent acquisition by Germany of an enormous area formerly owing allegiance to the Sultan of Zanzibar. All that coast and inland territory, which is bound to make rapid progress under the energetic action of Germans, and the awakened activity of Portuguese, will exert a powerful effect upon the future commercial history of Natal.

The philanthropist meanwhile regards with deep concern this sudden expansion of colonization ideas, so far as it may affect aboriginal races. Past experience does not incline the friends of coloured men and women to indulge hopeful feelings, when witnessing the successive seizure of native lands, and contemplating the result of contact with European traders. The question arises, is Africa doomed, like America, to lose its original inhabitants by the aggressive force of European superiority.

CAPE COLONY.

THE Portuguese were the discoverers of South Africa, as they were of most of West and East Africa.

In 1486 Bartholomew Diaz took possession of the territory, near the mouth of the Orange, in the name of the King of Portugal. He rounded the Cape, and erected a cross on an island in Algoa Bay, where, in September, 1486, he declared the land owned by Portugal.

On his return, the king changed the name of *Cape of Storms* to *Cape of Good Hope*, as he thought it on the road to India. Vasco de Gama was sent from Lisbon, July 8th, 1497, to follow up the discovery. Entering Table Bay, November 18th, he sailed eastward and northward by Natal and Mozambique, reaching India in safety.

The Dutch, who supplanted Spaniards and Portuguese in several quarters, seized upon the Cape as a good halting and refreshment place for their fleets going to the islands in the East. The Dutch East India Company sent off a party under Johan Van Riebeck, who had previously entered the port, and urged its occupancy.

In 1651 the little settlement was established, and only extended a very few miles inland for many years. The Company took little notice of the place, rendered it very slight service, but troubled the settlers with vexatious regulations.

The arrival of French Protestants, after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1685, was most fortunate. In that party were farmers, traders, mechanics, and gentlemen. Energy, intellect, and character gave them weight. And yet they who welcomed them as brothers in faith, desired them to forsake French and use Dutch. At this time French and Dutch are alike called *Boers*.

When the armies of the French Republic overran Holland, the Prince of Orange, fearful of the consequences of France seizing the Cape, wished England to hold it. In a friendly way, this was done in 1795.

The change of affairs under Napoleon necessitated the transfer of Cape Town to the Dutch again. When, however, Holland was made a French conquest, a British fleet took quiet and bloodless possession of the Cape, on January 19th, 1806, retaining it ever since. The Boers then fully appreciated the better government in the change.

Though held by us, it was not till 1821 that any British settlers went out. Then several thousand were despatched by Government, having land given them in Algoa Bay country, which became from that time British and not Boer in population. Graham's Town and Port Elizabeth were the settlements.

Terrible trouble soon followed, by an invasion of Kaffirs, who destroyed farms and life, necessitating the first of a series of so-called Kaffir wars. The Kaffirs themselves had seized on territory belonging to the original tribes, and the latter had to take shelter in the colony.

The history of the Cape is that of Kaffir wars. The warriors had come down from the East Coast of Africa, slaughtering tribe after tribe. The last comers, the widely-spread Zulu nations, were as cruel to the Kaffir invaders as these had before been to earlier races.

When we took possession of the Cape, there were in the whole 120,000 square miles, twice the area of England, only 25,000 Whites, 26,000 Negro and Hottentot slaves, and 14,000 free Blacks in the bush.

The area of the colony is now nearly twice that extent, and the people have increased to 300,000 Europeans, with, perhaps, four times that number of natives. In the colony there are about nine English to eleven Boers of Dutch and French origin. British immigration would soon change that relation.

At first, only Hottentots, and the dwarfish and more savage Bosjemans, or Bushmen, inhabited the country. Native wars, waging from the Equator southward, thrust down blacks of many kinds, till in the Cape Colony, and in adjoining countries, there are now several millions located. There was a mixture of Hottentot and Negro, Hottentot and

Kaffir, Kaffir and Negro, with more or less Arab blood from East Africa.

That which divided Boer and British appears to have been mainly the forcible end of slavery in all our colonies by Parliament fifty years ago.

As the emancipated slaves were to be paid for by the English people, the Cape Boers demanded for their 35,745 workers the sum of 85*l.* each. The authorities would only give 33*l.* 12*s.* Unfortunately, the money was to be paid in London to properly attested agents of slave owners, not easily to be selected and appointed by roving settlers. Much of the cash was unclaimed. A bitter feeling arose against British rule from that time, and parties trekked off northward, planting themselves in what now are Natal, Orange Free State, and Transvaal.

There are signs of the healing of this breach, which had little to do with the question of nationality, as British are nearer in blood to Dutch than the French element of the good Burghers is to the Dutch one. A common Protestantism, for there are few British Roman Catholics in the Cape Colony, should be another bond of union.

The colony is a free one. The franchise, sufficiently broad, is open to all colours and races. There being now so many well-to-do natives, one has been induced to exclaim, "We might find that we have handed over the legislative powers of South Africa to the coloured people."

Certainly, British philanthropy was never exhibited in that form elsewhere. As it might be said that the blacks are the original inhabitants, it should be known that the vast majority are invaders, and newer comers than even the English themselves, the Hottentots being the only aborigines. We have not thought proper to give the franchise to other native races in colonies, or place them on a level with ourselves in other possessions, even where they are so superior to Hottentots and Kaffirs in intelligence and morals.

The revenue is derived from custom duties, land rentals,

excise, and the usual sources in civilized countries. The hut-tax on natives brings in about 40,000*l*.

Borrowing, largely for native wars, the colony has a debt of twenty millions. The British Government has had a heavy outlay, also, from the same cause.

Among items of expenditure is the aid to the Dutch Reformed Church, and the English Church. The total receipts of the former, from grants, pew-rents, property, &c., were 63,153*l*. during 1884; of the latter, 28,843*l*.

The School system is thus described by the inspector: "It is a complete educational ladder, with the kraal schools at the bottom and the University at the top." There were in 1884, in the public schools, 14,700 white children, and 33,000 black ones.

There were for the 74 members of the Assembly 84,206 registered electors, and 5485 for 22 Legislative Council. Both Divisional and Municipal Councils are assisted by the State. The valuation of property was lately rated at 37,344,299*l*.

At the present time so much public regard has been fixed on territory connected with the Cape, though beyond the old limits, that reference must be made to such.

Bechuanaland has been placed under the Crown. Stellaland and Goshen, with Vryburg chief settlement, formed the south-eastern portion of Bechuana, and had been forcibly seized by some Boers, to the oppression of native owners of the soil. Sir Charles Warren has expelled the intruders, and protected the Kaffirs in his Proclamation of March 23rd, 1885.

The boundaries are fixed roughly at lat. 22° S. for the north, Cape Colony proper for the south, Transvaal Republic to the east, and long. 20° E. for the western side. It does not include Matabeliland on the north, which is near the Zambezi tropical country.

The area includes part of Kalahari desert, with King Khama's capital Shoshong, and may be as large as Spain. Most of the land is plateau, of from 3000 to 6000 feet above

the sea level. Though, therefore, partly in the tropics, the elevation would give a cool climate for months in the year.

By no means a desert, particularly near the Kuruman mission station of the late Rev. Dr. Moffat, father-in-law of Dr. Livingstone, there are in British Bechuana belts of forest along watercourses, and good cattle pasture outside of camel-thorn scrubs. There is much black soil available for cultivation, and a rush of farmers thither is expected.

As a sheep country, notwithstanding the paucity of showers, it has special recommendations, since the veldt is sweet and healthy for that animal. The border is 800 miles north-eastward of Cape Town. Shoshong is 1200 miles.

The population may not be twenty thousand, consisting mainly of the Baralong, Batlars, and Batlaping tribes. Khama is chief of the Bamangwatos. Many of these have a strong Zulu admixture. The more northern and warlike Matabeles are Zulus, who possess gold-mines there.

Without being worshippers of idols, all these tribes lived in fear of evil spirits, and the power of medicine-men who claimed to influence those spirits. Christian missions have, however, exercised a beneficial effect on the native mind. The Kaffirs justly feared the consequences of drink brought in by traders, and they implored Sir Charles Warren to protect them from its introduction.

Basutoland Kaffirs are allowed their own customs, sufficiently tyrannical and barbarous. It is to be deeply regretted that this fair Switzerland of South Africa should have been lately so desolated by drink. Basutoland is wedged up between Natal and the Orange River Free State.

The British Government has acted differently toward the natives to that the Boer Free State has done. No equality of colour is allowed in that Dutch Boerland. The *Africander Bond* is equally opposed to black freedom. The Kaffirs of Bechuana, therefore, will be better off in a political sense than their brothers over the border.

Fingoes, whose territory, stolen by them, has been now annexed by Britain, are a branch of the Zulu nation. They were rescued by the English from slavery to the Galeikas,

whose chief made this apology for his cruelty, "Are they not my dogs?" The Fingoes afterwards helped our forces in native wars. The Basutos were in like manner saved by England from total destruction at the hands of the Boer Free State.

Pondoland, toward Natal, has been in 1885 placed under our Protectorate. It is rich in pasture, and the Pondos have great herds of cattle, and fields of corn, tobacco, and mealies or maize. St. John's river is the port.

In 1885, also, were annexed the south-eastern Tembuland, Emigrant Tembuland, Bonvanaenland and Gealekaland, all well-watered and fairly timbered provinces. Griquas, of various names, are descendants of a mixed race of Dutch and Hottentots, with much capacity for progress. The tribes eastward of the Kei river far outnumber the whites, the Pondos alone being 200,000.

Cape Colony was bounded to the north by the Orange River, till Griqualand West, the diamond region, was annexed. Far north-west, also, in lat. 22° S., Walvisch Bay was declared belonging to the colony.

The Western Electoral Districts are Cape Town, Cape, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Malmsbury, Swellendam, George, Caledon, Worcester, Piquetberg, Riversdale, Oudtshoorn, Beaufort, Clanwilliam, Namaqualand and Victoria West.

These are on the Cape Town or Dutch side.

The Eastern Districts belong to the Port Elizabeth side. They are Port Elizabeth, Somerset, Uitenhage, Graham's Town, Cradoek, King William's Town, Graff-Reinet, Fort Beaufort, Albany, Albert, Queenstown, Wodehouse, Victoria East, Richmond, Colesberg, East London, and Aliwal North.

Cape Town lies under Table Mountain. Among its pleasant suburbs are Wynberg, Claremont, Sea Point, and Rondebosch. Simon's Bay is 21 miles off; Stellenbosch, 25; Paarl, 40; Malmsbury, 45; Tulbagh, 80; Swellendam, 140; Riversdale, 200; Albert, 280; Beaufort West, 330; Graff-Reinet, 480; Port Elizabeth, 510; Colesberg, 540; Uitenhage, 500; Graham's Town, 600; Queenstown, 650; Aliwal North, 670.



Cape Town has many attractions for visitors, apart from its noble Table Mountain, in the tokens of an advanced civilization in library, observatory, &c. More Dutch than English, it shows the remains of old institutions in its negroes, while Hottentots and Kaffirs are numerous. An interesting colony of some thousands of busy Mahometan Malays adds a curious feature.

Port Elizabeth is a go-ahead British settlement, by no means so pleasant in scenery as Cape Town, though far more commercial in aspect. In public institutions it worthily maintains a high position. Its exports grew from 33,000*l.* in 1835 to 3,137,400*l.* in 1872. The wool the first year was 79,848 lbs.; in the last, 40,000,000 lbs. The prosperous Malays have a handsome mosque there.

Graham's Town of Albany, twenty-five miles from Port Elizabeth, is essentially British; so is King William's Town. Graff-Reinet has been styled the "gem of the desert." Uitenhage is pleasantly situated. Colesberg is pretty hot in summer from its rocky sides. Near border Queenstown is the farming home of Moravians. Port Alfred, or Kowie, has a beautiful neighbourhood.

The country rapidly ascends from the coast, so that Cape Colony may be called a plateau-land. Table Mountain is 3586 feet above sea-level, but several of the ranges inland are much higher. Winterhoek is 6840 feet; Zwartberg, 3450; Zuurberg, 2000; Hogsback, 6370; Stormberg, 7000; Roggeveld, 8000; and in Basutoland are hills 10,000 feet high.

Rivers are not numerous, and not always flowing, in that dry land, except in Kaffraria.

The Orange, or Gariep, is 900 miles long; the great Fish river, 250; the Gamtoos, or Groote, 300; the Gauritz, 300; the Breedc, 160; the Swakop, 250; the Sunday, 200; the Olifants, 130. The Buffals, Berg, Bot, Lout, Brakke, Knysna, Zwartkops, and Kowie are smaller.

There are salt-pans or Vleis, springs or fountains, and curative mineral as well as hot springs.

Climate can hardly be touched in our limited space.

Essentially dry and windy, the colony is healthier than most places. The south-east and north-west rushes of air at Cape Town are trying at times; the first is cold and dry, the last is mild and moist. Hot winds are not uncommon.

The latitude would promise heat, and the interior is hot enough in summer. But, from the elevation of the country, winter is severe over the central and north-eastern districts. The best part for rains is south-east, and frosts are few there. The forest-sheltered south has a tempered climate, and the vineyards round Cape Town are delightful.

Droughts trouble the colony; but the best evidence of salubrity is shown in the splendid *physique* of both Europeans and Kaffirs. Graham's Town is equal to any British settlement in the world for healthiness.

PASTORAL RESOURCES.

Cape Colony has of late years taken a splendid position among pastoral regions. In spite of hot winds, droughts, rocks, and sands, conditions not so different to those of a large portion of Australia, cattle are greatly multiplying, and the product of wool is ever steadily advancing.

Land may be a desert indeed at one time, but a perfect garden at another. A traveller described in pitiful tones his sufferings in a northern waste, a bed of hot sand, a burning plain without vegetation. Another went over the same ground a month or two after, and wrote, "The whole land is covered as by magic with the loveliest carpet of flowers and plants, and the brows of the hills are encircled with fragrant, blooming crowns."

The sandstone Karroos are generally elevated plains between the great ranges, stretching for hundreds of miles to the north of the colony. *Karoo* is Hottentot for *barren*, and any one going there in the dry season would rightly term those riverless regions *deserts*. Treeless, they are not shrubless, and if stock could only find water, the nutritive shrubs would fatten them.

The Great Karroo is 350 miles long, and from 2000 to 3000 feet high. Half a dozen degrees outside of the tropics,

it can be fiercely hot in summer, while bitterly cold in winter.

“A region of emptiness, howling and drear,
Which man hath abandoned from famine and fear.”

This scene, so void of living sight or sound, can after a rain be crowded with herds of antelopes, ostriches, and cattle, or afford enjoyable feed to countless bleating sheep. The steppes of Russia know not a greater contrast, clothed with snow for half a year, and smiling in verdure the other half.

By far the largest part of the colony consists of these rich though streamless Karroos, or rocky elevated plateaus, fit only for depasturing in the milder seasons. When grass is absent, the sheep-bush, that has thrust down so deeply its roots for moisture, provides sufficient sustenance. The rainy days on the Karroos, from thunderstorms, may be twenty-five in the year.

Have the high plains of the Cape been long in that state?

Travellers nearly two centuries since describe the Karroos as we now see them. Some think no perceptible change has taken place since the Dutch came, while others lament the effects of forest destruction in the loss of pasture. The Colonial Hydraulic Engineer lately reported, “I have seen places that used to be ‘riet vleys’ in the memory of man, and were in that condition suitable for feeding springs, which are now bare ‘vloors’ intersected by deep gullies; off these the rainwater flows without sinking in.”

Pastoral districts are of *Sweet-veldt* or *Sour-veldt*. The *Zuur*, or sour country, contains much iron. Cattle and horses manage on it, but sheep dislike it; yet the Colonial Botanist finds that “the cropping of the veldt by Merino sheep converts a sour veldt into sweet veldt.”

The sour veldt is from north-western Hottentots—Holland, through Caledon, Swellendam, and George to Uitenhage, with intervals afterwards of the same. When very sour, the grass tufts give place to shrubs only. The Karroos are of sweet veldt, or places in which the cattle, as it is said, do not seek bones to gnaw at. It may be noticed between the Zwart-

berg range of Beaufort hills, and by Beaufort and Graff-Reinet to Somerset, and down the Sunday river valley. Sweetfeed runs from the lofty Sneeuwberg to the Orange river.

It is thought that this sweet and pleasant-tasted grass-land, now so elevated, was once for a long while covered with water, and received the *débris* of mountains washed down into it. Streams from the Zuurveldt are never pure. The *Gemengde veldt* is half sweet and half sour, as at the Olifants Hoek and at Saldanha; such mixed soil can be improved by irrigation.

Grasses are better in the Eastern than the Western Province. The Bent grass (*Agrostis*) may be observed on sour veldt. Haas grass, like silver-hair grass, keeps green in winter. Roode zaad grass is a wild oat. Schaap grass, a quick grass, maintains its moisture. Kruis grass is a *Panicum*. Lange blaauw grass is a bent grass. Breede blaauw zaad grass is like our meadow grass. The scented Schaapbosch is favoured by sheep, which like the soda plants and ice plants of sweet veldt. Dr. Hooker called the sheep-bush "the most valuable sheep fodder for dry climates." Propagated by cuttings, it shoots forth with the least moisture.

It is a great comfort that much zuur veldt, unfit for pasture, as in Lower Albany, is capital for agriculture. Good around dry Queenstown, the feed is not admired upon the coast-lands.

A long time passed before the Dutch Boers could give up their hairy, fat-tailed sheep for the delicate-woolled Merino, even after seeing the profit English sheepmasters made alongside them. In 1830 only 33,000 lbs. of wool were exported. The 1884 returns gave 37,270,615 lbs., worth 1,745,193*l*. The Cape has made greater relative progress than Australia for some years. In 1875 there were 11,275,743 sheep, 241,342 horses, and 1,329,445 cattle.

The last few years of depression, accompanied by extra violence in droughts, seem to have damped the ardour of wool-growers. They certainly do not get the prices Australia and New Zealand men obtain. But the want of water for washing is one drawback, while another is in the damage done by dust to the wool brought over dusty roads for hun-

dreds of miles to port. Yet the *Cape Journal* gave this serious warning :—

“Unless wool-growers will take more care of their flocks, and bring their wool in better state to market, it will soon be found that a living cannot be got by growing wool.”

The pastoral employments are in connection with ostriches, Angora goats, cattle, horses, and sheep.

OSTRICH-FARMING.—The old fashion of proeuring the beautiful feathers was by killing the bird in the chase. The Boers occasionally tamed a few ostriches, using the feathers as brooms, or for beating off mosquitoes. But the earliest domestication was at Oudtshoorn and Beaufort, during 1866, and in George district four years after.

In 1865 there were but eighty tame birds; in 1875, 32,247. The dry open plains suited them. Riversdale had 2892; Oudtshoorn, 2519; George, 1802; Calvinia, 1143; Cradock, 1045; Graff-Reinet, 1032; and so on. They like the Karroo plains and sweet grass flats, finding shrubs, leaves, grass, and wild berries as food.

Ostrich-farmers provide luerne, or give a meal of maize in the shed of an evening, the birds being at large within an enclosure. One writes, “The birds do not like grass or green fodder; they prefer cabbage-leaves, fruit, grain, &c.; but for permanent food, there is nothing equal to luerne or clover.” Much sickness lately troubled the birds.

Delicate creatures, they require to have shelter against cold rains. They are troubled with wire-worms and yellow-liver. So many chickens died in natural hatching, that the Egyptian system of incubation was adopted, by which the eggs are artificially treated.

The feathers used to be plucked from the living bird, but are now cut off, the stumps falling out in time, or being easily removed. The best feathers have been sold at 50*l*. The average produce in the year is from 5*l*. to 15*l*.; though prices have fallen considerably of late, through competition. In 1858, 1852 lbs. weight fetched 12,688*l*.; 1874, 36,829 lbs. brought 205,640*l*.; the rate being from 3*l*. to 6*l*. a

pound. In 1884, the produce was 233,411 lbs., valued at 966,479*l*. The feathers are known as white, femina, byoks, boos, blaek, drab, and spadones, though now an artificial bleaching is effected by chemieals.

Like so many other good things in our day, ostrich-farming does not pay so well as it did, though still remunerative.

ANGORA-GOAT-FARMING.—Goats have always done well at the Cape, being easily satisfied without luxuriant fare. The goat of the Angora district, in Asiatie Turkey, has a soft, silky covering, known in the market as mohair. This substance was very successfully worked into a cloth by Mr. Titus Salt, who suggested the suitability of the Cape for that produce.

Angora goats were found to be remarkably adapted to the colony, whose climate and geology were not dissimilar to the native home of the ereatures. So rapid was the increase, that there are considerably over a million now, while the value of the exported mohair, during 1883, came to 271,804*l*., though 239,573*l*. for 4,329,355 lbs. in 1884. The skins of ordinary goats brought that year 122,796*l*.

The Angora was introduced from Angora in 1856. It has suffered from want of care in being kept apart from other goats. The mohair is white, soft, fine, and lustrous. In 1862, the amount exported was 1036 lbs.; in twelve years, it rose to a million pounds. Now the yield surpasses that of Angora province itself.

CATTLE-FARMING.—This has been the occupation of natives from the remotest of times, though the herds of the Hottentots were rather hastily transferred to the possession of Dutch settlers after their occupation of the land. Kaffirs have large herds, and indulge in the practice of cattle stealing in any tribal difference. Kaffir chiefs draw a fine revenue from pastoral pursuits.

Cattle thrive where sheep will not, though they sicken and fall off in flesh when first removed from sweet to sour pasture. They are liable to lung disease, to *red-water*, and *stiff-sickness*. The *red water*, from red urine, is a sort of

fever, occasioned by the introduction of bacillus life. This *bush-sickness* came in 1870 from the north, and is rife in marshy places. The hair stands erect, the ears droop, the eyes are dull, the nostrils are crusty, the appetite fails. The animal stands stupidly still. Blood becomes quite pale, and the red discs are altered in shape.

The ordinary Kaffir ox has a short body, long legs, and very short neck. A black and beautiful beast is the Mashoona ox, very servicable in the plough, or taking part in the span for drawing the heavy, lumbering Cape waggon. Treeking Boers owe much to the patient bullock, and its skilful Hottentot driver.

Of late years, particularly in the Eastern province, inhabited principally by our people, good breeds have been introduced, and the novel experiment of dairy farms has there appeared. It is not a little strange that the Cape land of cattle should be a large importer of butter and cheese. Those who have started dairies have done well, though the dryness of the country is a sore trial. Kaffraria side is the most hopeful for the industry, as well as parts near the forests of the south.

HORSE-FARMING.—Horses are valuable at the Cape, as so many die of disease. The tsetse fly is a terrible plague to them and the cattle in some districts northward, yet the plague of all is the *Gall-ziekte*, or inflammatory fever. One half the number of horses in a district have thus been carried off in a year. Traders have been thereby made dependent on bullocks.

Upon an attack, the horse has a rapid, heavy breathing, sunken eyes, swollen eyelids, frothy mouth and nostrils, great perspiration, griping pains, a staring look, and a distressing cough. There is no known cure, and death often comes in an hour. Those surviving are known as *saulted horses*, and, never subject to a renewed attack, fetch a high price. They never recover their good looks, the coat being marked.

The Cape Inspector of cattle counsels men never to remove

the bars of the palate in lampas. Glanders is not uncommon. The strangles is called *nieuwe-ziekte*. Eggs of the gadfly are dropped on the horse's coat; and, being licked off by the animal, produce by their larva the disease known as *bots*. The Veterinary Inspector affirms that horses kept from moist pastures, and put into stable at sundown, are not liable to *gall-ziekte*.

SHEEP-FARMING.—This, but for recent decline in wool prices, has been a highly-productive industry.

The Dutch animal was famous for a fat tail, but had hair instead of a coat of wool. Disease was developed by the practice of putting the flock in a *Kraal* or enclosure at night. In olden times, however, when lions and other savage beasts were numerous, the kraal was necessary.

Sheep-farms are mostly freehold, subject to the usual quit-rent to Government, containing from a few thousand acres to large areas, though nothing like Australian *runs*. But the Boer was obliged to trek off to the mountains for months together, when his homestead grass was withered by the sun. Sleeping in the waggon, a tent, or a dwelling of reeds, the father and his sons tended the flock or herd till the rain time at home.

The first Merino woolled sheep arrived in 1812 in the district of Bredasdorp, though introduced in 1790 by Colonel Gordon from Spain. Some of the stock, sold to Captain Macarthur and Captain Waterhouse, became the founders of the great wool trade of Australia. In 1884 there were 2,319,954 sheep exported at a cost of 213,793*l*.

Sheep diseases there are *brandziekte* or scab, *geel* or fluke (which is unknown in the dry Karroo), braxy, heartwater or gall-sickness, tape-worm, *melt-ziekte* from a bacillus, liver from a flat-worm, dropsy from a small worm. Sheds are essential protection on the cold and lofty plains, where lung disease is so prevalent. The Cape Government take wise measures for the relief of disease, and for protection against attack.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

These, though very long neglected, are by no means contemptible. Dutch Boers disliked the slow, home-staying

operations of husbandry. They loved pastoral work, since it took them to the free life of the wilderness, the region of famous sport, the scene of conflict with wild men, and hardly wilder beasts. The English emigrants, leaving here with farming ideas, became the tillers at the Cape.

A farm is not easy to obtain first hand from Government, unless one go to the far east, to new territories taken over from Kaffirs, and where one may encounter a native difficulty, to loss or ruin. From private parties land can be had on reasonable terms, as Boers are always ready to trek away, and as they sometimes have their property heavily mortgaged, and that to British men of capital.

When one sees among the imports so large a sum for wheat, flour, butter, cheese, and even fruits, it is apparent that agriculture is at a low ebb. There are gardens and vineyards round Cape Town, some farms about Graaff-Reinet and Uitenhage, but cultivation is mainly observed in the neighbourhood of Graham's Town and other eastern spots.

Fires in summer try the farmer, when the hot wind has prepared grass and trees for the flames. Describing the fate of a flock of sheep and a team of bullocks in a bush-fire, it is written, "In less time than it takes to tell it, the waggon, oxen, and sheep were one smouldering ruin."

Wild animals are sometimes destructive, and elephants still, in some parts, rush the settler's growing crop. Droughts are even more to be dreaded, while depressed times yield but poor prices. Then the terrible border wars set homesteads in flames, and swept both stock and crop. These troubles are going. Wild beasts are few, irrigation and well-sinking provide water, bush fires are checked by legislation, and disorders from Kaffirs are rare.

The want of an industrial population, and the wide scattering of the colonists, must be drawbacks to farmers.

Once the Dutch Boer thought it almost impious to make dams where God sent so little water. He is gradually adopting the skilful arrangements of his British neighbour to retain the hurrying waters, and to select suitable localities, as the side of a basaltic dyke, to sink for water.

To understand Cape farming, the immigrant must know Cape weights and measures. There are 32 loots to a pound, and 92 Dutch pounds equal 100 English. A sehewel is three quarters of our bushel, four sehewels make a muid, and ten muid, a load. A legger is 152 Dutch gallons, or 126 English; and a pipe is 110 of one to 91 of the other. An aum is 15 gallons Dutch, $15\frac{1}{2}$ English. An ell is 27 inches, four ells making three yards. A thousand Rhyndland feet equal 1033 English. A rood is 144 square feet, 600 roods making a morgen, the standard for land, containing very nearly two acres,— $49\frac{71}{100}$ being 100 acres.

The Land Law of 1882 arranges for farms from 10 to 250 morgen. No one already holding 250 can apply for a new allotment. All applicants must be over twenty-one years. The rent is fixed. First held on lease for five years, the land is charged five per cent. as rental, and men reside on the acreage for the first three years, improving to a certain amount. In case of death, all improvements go to the family. A purchase can be made at the end of the lease, but subject to a small perpetual quit-rent to Government.

No one can cut down trees on his land without permission. At auction sales of land, the quit-rent is the upset price. If land be reserved by the State, compensation is awarded.

Farming at the Cape is much after the English fashion, though the agricultural implements are still rude in many parts. The natives are extensively engaged in agriculture, and have become good customers for English ploughs and harrows. Yet scientific farming is considerably behind that seen in Australasia.

Grain-growing is on the increase, aided by the bad times, which have driven men to field-work. Wheat is less cultivated than maize or Indian corn, usually known by Kaffirs as *mealies*. Millet, a common sort of corn there, is known as Kaffir corn; it may be boiled for food, or malted for the making of beer, a favourite drink with East African tribes. Imphee or sorghum is much cultivated for stock.

Wheat may be sown near the coast between June and

September. Rice is grown on the low, damp lands of Eastern Kaffraria. Tobacco is readily raised in any part of the coast-lands. Cotton does well eastward. Coffee plantations are appearing toward the Buffalo river. Ploughing is performed by cattle. A *span* consists of sixteen oxen.

When the French Huguenots, two hundred years ago, sought a new home at the Cape with their fellow Protestants, the Dutch, they were careful to carry some vine-cuttings with them. These formed the foundation of the celebrated Cape Vineyards. As early as 1710, there were three million vines.

Wynberg, Swellendam, the Paarl, and Stellenbosch formed the agricultural settlements of the French, now not to be distinguished from the Dutch Boers. These places are in the vicinity of Cape Town, and are still famous for pretty homesteads nestling amidst orchards and vineyards. The most celebrated spot is Constantia, the wine of which still maintains a good reputation. The Groote Constantia farm was recently sold by a descendant of the original planter.

Cape wines did well on the first failure of the French vineyards. Carelessness in manufacture, however, procured for them so ill a reputation in England, that sales were stopped. Constantia alone, by prudent management, and having a soil so similar to the best of wine-lands in France and Germany, was able to keep the market.

Latterly the wines at the Cape have much improved. Like those from Australia, they are subject to the higher duty of half a crown a gallon in England, since they are over 26° of alcohol, while French and Spanish wines pass at a shilling.

One effect of the stoppage of the sale of wine at the Cape has been truly unfortunate for the cause of morals. Brandy has been made from the grapes, and is bought with eagerness by whites, Hottentots, and Kaffirs, to the terrible increase of drunkenness, damage to all industrial pursuits, with arrest of civilization and Christianity in the interior.

That which increased the ill-favour of Cape wines was the bad spirit used in fortifying, the immature state in

which they were sold, miserable trade arrangements, and the want of skill in manufacture. A different treatment is evidently required to that pursued in some European countries.

In 1858, the wine export realized 103,582*l.*; in 1859, 141,664*l.*; in 1860, 59,260*l.* In 1861, it fell to 16,386*l.*; and, in 1862, to 8843*l.* This decline in Cape wines has taught the grape-growers a useful lesson, from which, judging by recent Government commissions, they are prepared to profit in future. In 1883, 115,499 gallons of ordinary wine realized in export 21,474*l.*; in 1884, 89,981 brought 15,422*l.*

The pastoral and agricultural will have there to go hand in hand. Animal-tending and plough-driving will have to be more united than they have been, wherever the locality is suitable. The operations must be separate where soil, climate and market render it necessary.

Prices of produce may be expected to vary in a country of such extent, with tracks more than roads, and rough ranges to cross. Details for 1884 are interesting.

Saddle-horses brought at Stockenstrom, 5*l.*; East London and Graff-Reinet, 10*l.*; Frazerburg, 30*l.* Mileh cows were at Hanover, 3*l.*; Tembuland, 4*l.*; Cape Town, 15*l.*; Port Elizabeth, 20*l.* Pigs were at Riversdale and Barkly East, 20*s.*; Cape Town, 30*s.*; Alexandra, 70*s.*

Woolled sheep were at Aliwal North, 10*s.*; Graff-Reinet, 11*s.*; Cape Town, 25*s.* Washed wool was at Albert, 4*d.* per lb.; Richmond, 5*d.*; Queenstown, 7½*d.*; Cape, 14*d.* Butter sold at Robertson for 9*d.*; Albany, 3*s.*; Frazerburg, 3*s.* 6*d.*

Wheat rates were at Tulbagh, 6*s.*; Cape, 7½*s.*; Uitenhage, 8*s.*; Kimberley, 15*s.*; Frazerburg, 17*s.* Barley ranged from 2*s.* at Mahnsbury and Bredasdorp, 2½*s.* George, 4*s.* Fort Beaufort, 6½*s.* Port Elizabeth, 10*s.* Kimberley. Oats were 18*d.* at the Paarl, but 10*s.* at Hope Town, 15*s.* at Frazerburg.

Maize fetched 5*s.* at Victoria East and Queenstown; 9*s.*

at Victoria West, and 15s. at Carnarvon. Potatoes were 2s. 6d. at Swellendam, 3s. Woodhouse, 5s. Cape Town, 6s. Wynberg, 10s. Calvinia, and 16s. Prieska.

The average for the colony was 16l. 14s. for horses; 7l. 6s. 9d. cows; 2l. pigs; 16s. sheep; 10½d. wool; 1s. 9d. butter; 8s. 6d. wheat; 4s. 7d. barley; 6s. 2d. maize and oats; 5s. 6d. a bushel potatoes.

The labour question excites fresh interest. British farm labourers are very few, though both Germans and English work on their own farms; but Hottentots and Kaffirs are the wage-men. Among these there has been so much demoralization, greatly owing to the cheap Cape brandy, that, as one has said, "You have to put an overseer to every labourer."

Agriculture and the pastoral interest suffer seriously from this drink trouble. Natives in the interior that used to be large cultivators of wheat, maize, &c., to the profit of the colony and themselves, have latterly diminished very considerably this field culture. That is particularly seen in Basutoland, once so progressive in farming.

It is sad indeed to hear Mr. Baden-Powell declare, "The natives under colonial rule are more and more becoming drunkards." Again, "Health and natural increase is endangered by drink and disease, both apparently increasing with sad rapidity. Nothing seems to stay the spread of drink, and the evils are painfully apparent in the wide Cape Colony."

In the Eastern Province, now the leading agricultural one, principally settled by our people, native labour is a necessity with some farmers, whose acreage is too large for their family to manage; but an increasing number of smaller freeholds, among Germans as well as English, is most hopeful.

In the Western Province, the Dutch Boers have had the habit of depending upon native help, in house and field, though more pastoral than agricultural, and are severely tried by the growing uselessness of their servants.

What is now felt to be a necessity is the gathering of small capitalists, willing to locate themselves upon moderate-

sized farms, and rely mainly on their own arm. There is no want of rich soil, with favouring climate, down in eastern districts. And, only half the distance of Australia from Great Britain, the Cape ought to do well in the export of produce.

Graham's Town is one centre of British farming. But in George, Knysna, King William's Town, Queenstown, and the Transkei are many localities in which British settlers would find neighbours of their own blood.

Too much has been made of the supposed antagonism of English and Dutch farmers. The Afrikander Bond has little effect on settlements. The Dutch work well enough with the English settler, whatever soreness may be felt toward our Government. Germans certainly fraternize with us heartily there, as in Australia.

Three years' active emigration from Great Britain to the Cape will set all difficulty at rest, and be no injury to the Boers.

Two difficulties are in the way of such an exodus,—fear of native wars, and want of suitable blocks of land.

Cape proper has only some coast territory fit for agriculture, owing to deficiency of water supply. Almost all land in the vicinity of settlements Westward has been grasped long ago, though often left idle and burdened with debt.

There are 2070 titles only to 1,353,772 morgen, or double that amount of English acres. All this large area brought only 37,759*l.*, and subject to an annual quit-rent to the State of 23,785*l.* But these big Boer estates are being gradually broken up, and good farms can be had now cheaply nearer Cape Town.

Leases of land still held by the State were granted by the law of 1864, of from two to twenty-one years. In 1870 came the right of purchasing leaseholds, though subject to a small quit-rent of one per cent. But lots up to 500 acres could be had on the system of conditional purchase, at a shilling an acre for ten years. In the Boer Free State a farmer is taxed as much as two shillings a morgen.

Though the agriculture has made so small a progress, circumstances indicate a great change in that direction, and the Cape may soon become a rising exporter of agricultural products.

FORESTS AND ECONOMIC PLANTS.

Cape Colony has few and limited forests, though formerly they were more numerous. Native recklessness in the use of saplings for hut-building, extensive bush fires, waste of timber in clearings by colonists, tend to the wide destruction of that shelter of the ground, so needful for the preservation of springs and marshes, sources of streams, and so necessary for the attraction of water-bearing clouds.

The testimony of travellers and missionaries, particularly Mr. Moffat and Dr. Livingstone, points out the rapid disappearance of timber, and the consequent increase of dryness in climate. The Cape authorities, in the appointment of an hydraulic engineer, and several conservators of forests, are now alive to the dreaded evil.

He who merely traverses the elevated pastoral plateaus, the thirsty Karroos, or the sandy plains, can hardly realize the cool and pleasant shades of Knysna, the long forest glades of George, the deep and dense scrubs of the further east. The Crown forests of George, Knysna, and Mossel Bay, westward, contain about 200,000 acres. This timber, moreover, is of high commercial value. The economic plants, fostered by the loftier trees, are of no trifling significance, and prompted Governor Barkly to affirm :—

“The natural resources of South Africa can hardly be surpassed by those of any other portion of the globe.”

The transition from the treeless North to the delightful green and refreshing coolness of southern forests is wonderful. The Knysna woodlands afforded sport to the Duke of Edinburgh, who brought down an elephant there. It is sincerely hoped that useless felling in these noble woods will be restrained. The Forest Conservator truly remarks, when treating of the trees, “The wood-cutter can do much towards raising their character.” Re-forestation old sites will be a blessing, and there will be a reversal of the condition Mr.

Moffat noticed, when he spoke of seeing giant trees where now a desert reigns, and hippopotami happy in rivers where only sterility now is known.

Among the forest-trees, these may be mentioned :—Yellow wood, Stinkwood, Buickenwood, Essewood, Ironwood, Sallywood, Fatherland redwood, Ebony, Assegai, Meruley, Comassie, Rooihout, Silvertree, Gonioma, Vlier, Kersewood, White and Red Els, Saffron, White pear, Wolvendoorn, Guar, Wittepeer, Wilge Boom, Oliven Hout, Doorn Boom acacia, Boerboom, Melkhout, Kaffir Plum, Safraanhout-Kanephout or Wild Lemon, Taibosch, Oudenhout, Skeerhout, Roodhout, Porkwood, &c.

The Ironwood (*Olea*), Els or Cape Elder, Assegai or lancewood, Essenhout or ash, Cedarboom or cypress, Sneezewood (*Pteroxylon*), Stinkwood (*Laurus*), Yellowwood (*Taxus*), White and Red Els, Camel Thorn acacia and Meruley, are very useful in building, or for furniture and fencing. Mimosa scrubs abound when larger timber is scarce.

The Sneezewood of the south-east is better than the Stinkwood of the south-west. Forests near King William Town have not the serviceable Stinkwood and White Els. Assegai is excellent for waggon shafts. A place known as *Yellowwood* has not that fine tree near it now. Ebony is not the true ebony.

In a recent year, Knysna forests yielded 29,940 cubic feet of Stinkwood, 8800 of Yellowwood, 19,400 Waggonwood, 560 White Els, besides 4168 telegraphic poles. The total product in 1880 from Knysna, George, and Humansdorp forests was 110,152 cubic feet, valued at 15,193*l*. The Yellowwood or South Africa pine has fetched in the forest half a crown per cubic foot.

The Zitzikamma forest is twenty miles long, but that of Outeniqua in George was once of immense extent. Olifants Hoek eastward, and Table Mountain westward have some good trees. But British Kaffraria can hold its own, though in South Africa, against almost any district in our colonies.

ECONOMIC PLANTS are, however, of greater prospective

importance than many of the forest-trees. To Dr. Pappe's writings, and the annual reports of the Colonial Botanist, settlers are much indebted. Already fruits have appeared in new articles of export.

Buchu leaves, of the *Darosma* shrub, are largely collected. The principle they contain, *Diosmin*, is valuable in cases of gout, rheumatism, cholera, catarrh of the bladder, and indigestion. Vinegar buchu and buchu brandy are used as embrocations for sprains, &c. The leaves fetch a shilling per lb.

Vuleanite and ebonite are produced from the milk sap of *Euphorbia* and other plants. The euphorbium is 32 parts hydrogen, 40 carbon, 6 oxygen; ordinary Indiarubber is 40 carbon and 31 hydrogen.

In a climate subject to sudden and violent changes, colds may be expected. The Hottentots have made us well acquainted with medicinal plants of use. They relieve a cough by chewing leaves of Boshjesmansthee or Bushman shrub, or those of the Doornthee, and the bitter infusion of Droedaskruiden or the Dainen, as well as syrup of Suikerbosch.

For rheumatism we are referred to the oil of Worm kruid, the aerid Brandblâren, Kamso, and Buchu leaves. For diarrhœa and dysentery, there are the astringent Hottentot Fig, leaves of Karkey boiled in milk, Granaat-appel (Pomegranate), root of Braambosch (Blackberry), Doornboom bark, the root of Keita and Persgras. Bitter wortel is for colic; the infusion of Guaap or T'kay, for piles; and warm Pig's leaves are for relieving pain.

For consumptive complaints are taken the resinous snake root, Kaffir tea, leaves of Geele-bloemetjesthee, and wilde Ramanas, the astringent Honigthee, Stekelthee, Droedaskruiden. As aperients, they have the aloe, root of Davidjes, wilde pruimen (wild plum), and Bitter apple. Worms are confounded by Worm-kruid, Valerian root, Uncomocomo fern, Snake bush, Pelargonium, and Wild Sorrel. Pig's ears juice cures epilepsy; Davidjes wortel, dropsy.

Ulcers are treated by Kankerblâren, Beetbosjes, Nightshade,

and Stinkblâren ; convulsions, by saffron-like Gule bloemetjes ; asthma and gout, by Snake root ; sores, by Baviaansoren ; piles, by Guaap ; scald-heads, by Vrouwenhaar ; snakebites, by Slangenwortel ; sore eyes or throat, by Keesjesblâren ; fevers, by Zand Olyf ; flatulency and colic, by wild cardamom ; asthma, by Stekelthee ; hysteria, by Valerian root ; and incontinence of urine by Iceplant.

A liquorice root is in the Zoethout-bosjé. The Kauwgoed is a *Mesembryanthemum*, with sedative properties. Cutaneous affections are treated by Platdoorn or Ziekte-troost, like sarsaparilla. Smoking leaves of the Camphor-tree induces perspiration ; the Bellis also contains a camphor oil. A tincture of Graveel-wortel is used for gravel. Fresh leaves of the Thorn-apple are heated as poultices for sores. Hottentots smoke leaves of Wilde Dagge in eruptions. Katte-Kruiden (cat's herb) has a horehound-like bitter. Fruit of Kukumranka is taken in brandy for stomach troubles.

Among the hundred or more medicinal plants are the Warmmoel, Vogelend, Wild celery, Hottentot Keeta, Wilde Knoflock, Colocynth, and Schildpadbesjes.

Aloes are valuable. Over ten thousand pounds worth were sent to England in 1883. Known as *Socotrine* from Socotra, the former aloe ground, one hundred species of the tree are found at the Cape. The sap, often like amber, is thickened by heat, and best in iron vessels. The juice of the leaves is first drained into a pot. This is done by the hand, or the drainage may take place in the skin where the leaves are packed. The juice of hepatic aloes is not solidified by fire. Aloine crystals are obtained from aloe juice.

Several prickly plants would serve well for the fostering of the useful cochineal insect, and dye plants are numerous—the wild Indigo fern being one.

Wax berries are on a sort of myrtle. A muid, or three bushels, will produce twenty pounds of wax. This is superior to animal wax ; being harder, heavier, more brittle, easier powdered and melted. The candleberry myrtle is cultivated for the purpose. Before being bleached, the berries are of greenish hue.

Gums form another source of income. Such acacias as the Doornboon and Kameeldoorn, as well as the Kaurboom, supply gum, having less acidity than gum arabic. Bushwives use the transparent sort as starch. The Buchu gives so useful a gum resin, that special provisions were passed for the preservation of the plants.

Sumach (*Rhus coriaria*) is, also, an article of commerce. The plant is propagated by suckers and seeds, kept a couple of feet apart. A plantation may last fifteen years. The leaves provide a better tanning substance than oak bark. After being stripped from the shrub in March or April, the autumn months, the leaves are threshed in hot weather, and then ground for export. In the colony they are called *plum leaves*. The Sumach yields a black dye, also, which is used by calico printers.

Castor-oil plants are very abundant. The seeds give twenty-five per cent. of oil, but they should be heated a little before being expressed. There are many other oil plants.

The Unpimyisa root is put through a mincing machine, roasted and ground for a sort of coffee drink, of a sweet and cinnamon-like flavour. It is sometimes made into a syrup by boiling. The Kei apple, quite unlike an apple-tree, grows in Kaffraria. A jelly, prepared from the yellow fruit, imparts to pumpkins or the rind of water-melons the flavour of fresh apples.

Of native fruits and flowers, so abundant and peculiar, there is not space here to speak. Fruits, called by our English names of plum, pear, &c., are unlike the British productions, and by no means up to their standard. Imported fruit-trees succeed admirably, if placed where climate favours them, and that permits a range from gooseberries to bananas.

The flowers are so remarkable, and many are so beautiful, that some reference must be made to them.

The Heaths, Everlastings, Aloes, Orchids, Irids, Oxalis, and the Erythrina or Kaffir's-bloom are well known. There are many varieties of Asters, Milkworts, Mistletoe, Mallows, Myrtlebooms, Lilies, Geraniums, Lilyworts, Gladioli, Lachenalia, Umbels, Amaryllids, Mesembryanthemums, or Fig-

marigolds, Crassulæ, Compositæ, Lobeliæ, Veronica, Figworts, Labiates, &c.

Of the Cape Heaths there are 400 sorts. The pod-bearing plants are of hundreds of species. One *Eugenia* has a fruit of cherry size. The trailing *Pelargonium* yields a fragrant oil. There are over a hundred varieties of Indigo plants. An oil like castor is got from seeds of the cherry-like *Pappea*. The grasses of the Cape are seventy genera in number.

Baron Von Müller, the Australian botanist, has noted promising Cape plants.

He finds *Gonioma* wood good for tools ; *Hibiscus Ludwigii*, good fibre ; smoked leaves of *Leonites*, a stimulant ; seeds of cherry *Pappea* make an oil like the castor ; and the trailing *Pelargonium* yield a fragrant oil. Useful products are from the Kaffraria Butter-tree ; and a rich resin comes from the mountain *Callitris arborea*.

An official report lately gave half the Government land in George division as being timbered, and showed that the rain there was greater than at Mossell Bay. The trees were sadly wanted on denuded hill-sides in the interior, in order to save the soil.

In the Knysna forests, Yellowwood formed 20 per cent. of timber ; Keurwood, 12 ; Stinkwood, 8 ; Assegai, 8 ; Witte Els, 4 ; Essenhout, 4 ; Saffraan, 4. In winter, men cut Ironwood, Essen, and Assegai, but Stinkwood in autumn. Stinkwood is already extinct in several divisions.

SPORT in elephant shooting can be had in the southern forests. Cape tigers are in the mountains. But lions, quaggas, zebras, buffaloes, giraffes, rhinoceros, hippopotami, hyenas, jackals, and the many and beautiful antelopes are not so plentiful as they were. Sport with birds can be had near rivers and the coast.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

Cape geology is of a stable character, displaying no recent formations. Sir Roderick Murchison remarked, "Such as South Africa is now, such has been her main features during

countless ages, anterior to the creation of the human race. For the old rocks, which form her outer fringe, unquestionably circled round an interior marshy or lacustrine country, in which the *Dicynodon* (a reptile) flourished, at a time when not a single animal was similar to any living thing which now inhabits the surface of our globe."

Granite, Old Red Sandstone, and ancient slates, with their metamorphisms, surround Cape Town, and run very nearly over the whole country, granite prevailing up to the Orange river. Dreary-looking flat-topped hills of sandstone seem ever present to the traveller, while providing in disintegration lots of sand.

What are called Karroo beds were formed of deposits in ancient lakes, in which the peculiar bi-dental reptiles paddled of old. The extensively-spread red sandstone marks in trilobites its very remote origin. Old limestones have a great area. The ancient formations make their appearance as well on the other side of the Orange into Bechuanaland. More to the eastward come the carboniferous sandstones, but cupriferous rocks have their place in north-western Namaqua. Table Mountain displays granite with old slates, and Devonian sandstone and limestone. The volcanic element is from denudations rather weak at the Cape.

The mineral resources, apart from building-stone, consist of diamonds, copper, coal, gold, iron.

Diamond-fields have been far more productive than any previously known in history. Though in Griqualand West, over the Orange boundary, and once claimed by the Orange River Free State, the district has been annexed to the Cape, a bonus of 90,000*l.* quieting disputing Boers.

The precious stones were first collected in *wet* diggings by the Vaal river, an affluent of the Upper Orange. They were subsequently found eastward in *dry* diggings, for which the first were deserted. A recent letter in the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* shows that the Vaal is coming to the front again; observing, "Winters, Larkins, Long Blue Jacket, Niekerk's Keiskamma, Waldecks, Gong-gong, Good Hope, Bad Hope, &c., in fact, right on to Hebron, the cry is *Finds good.*"

The dry diggings are at Kimberley, where are the mines of Kimberley, De Beers, Du Toit's Pan, and Bultfontein. These have yielded, since 1870, over forty millions of pounds worth. During 1884, the expenses on the production of diamonds valued above 2,000,000*l.* came to 480,000*l.*, giving a grand profit.

Kimberley is 650 miles north-east of Cape Town, and 450 from Port Elizabeth. The railway is rapidly advancing toward it from both ports. Beaconsfield is the central township, having Du Toit on one side, and Bultfontein on the other, with De Beers joining Kimberley close by. A line of three or four miles crosses the deposits.

During 1883, Kimberley employed 419 whites, and 2113 Kaffir labourers, raising 947,817 carats of stone, averaging 22*s.* each carat. The reef work, at about three shillings a load, cost 261,795*l.*; while the removal of ten million gallons of water cost 2672*l.* The fall of vast piles of wall or reef, covering up the diamondiferous deposits, is a serious check and expense.

The other mines are not quite so valuable as Kimberley. Du Toit employed 350 Whites and 3000 Kaffirs; while Bultfontein had 250 of one and 2500 of the other. De Beer had 197, and 1260. Whites earn from 4*l.* to 8*l.* a week, and Kaffirs about thirty shillings and their lodging. But supplies are, because of distance from port, pretty expensive. The amount of alcohol consumed by both colours is what might be expected of a male mining community.

Government requires the payment of 1*l.* a month from a party of one miner and two servants, with ten shillings for each additional miner, or five shillings the additional servant or labourer. If the land be held by private persons, the permission of the owner is needed before the licensee can work. Licences in 1883 brought in 4039*l.*

An inspector of mines allots the claims—which were at first 30 feet by 30. Mining Boards of twelve men are elected for local government by shareholders, with votes according to their number of shares. Every claimholder must have a mining certificate, costing a pound a year. A

Diggers' Committee make bye-laws in new diggings. Half a crown a month is demanded from each claim to pay for police.

Prospecting licences are limited to places at least 500 yards from a mine; the finder of a mine is allowed to take up ten claims. A pound a month is paid for a *floor*, or space on which to deposit rubbish material from the mine, beacons distinguishing ownership. Each claim must have seven and a half feet left on each side for roadway. The transfer of a certificate involves a fine of 100*l*.

The depth of the ground to the stratum containing the diamonds varies down to over a couple of hundred feet. The alluvial rubble has blocks of granite, trap, &c. A blue clay is broken up for diamonds. The material is brought up in buckets, and sent along wires suspended in the air. Whims and steam-engines are used to work the stuff off. Scaffolds three stories high serve for three mines. The multiplicity of wires overhead is quite confusing.

In the washing of the dirt, circulating sieves, which retain the stones, throw toward the surface the useless earthy mud, but the diamonds, being the heavier, sink to the bottom, and are carefully put by. Cradles are used for the clay washing.

Diamonds are liable to be stolen, as many disreputable buyers ask no questions of thieves. But Cape laws are very severe in such cases. The discoverer of a theft gets a tenth of the value as his reward. We read of a Zulu searcher hunting out a valuable stone secreted by a coloured labourer, and gaining his tenth.

In 1884, there were 365 claims on Kimberley, 594 on Old De Beers, 1500 on Du Toit, 1065 on Bultfontein. The total weight of diamonds sent down that year was 1811 lbs. In 1881 as much as 4,176,202*l*. was obtained for 1500 lbs. The price is falling, either from so large an influx, or from inability to purchase luxuries. In 1868 the export was 500*l*., but rose in 1872 to 1,618,076*l*.

Gold, which is abundant in the Transvaal and more northern Matabeleland, and, to some little extent, in Natal,

even near Maritzburg, is wanting in Cape Colony. Silver was got from Table Mountain two hundred years ago, but not in paying quantities.

Copper, on the contrary, appears to the north-west corner, by the Orange river, in rich deposits. The Cape Copper Company, established in 1863, work on rocks known to be metallic many years since. Annually producing over 20,000 tons of ore, a good dividend is given, in spite of local difficulties, and the enormous decline in price.

The Namaqualand, of bare rock and sand, is utterly riverless, and hopelessly barren. The main workings are a hundred miles from the rainless port Nolloth, over a track now traversed by a tramway, on which some four hundred mules are employed. The ore has been carried to Swansea, smelting not being done so easily on the spot. Ookiep mine has yielded 15,000 tons of ore a year, averaging 30 per cent. of copper. Spectakel, the other leading mine, yields less, but at a higher value. It is thirty miles west of the old mission station of Springbok, and Ookiep is but five miles off that worthy seat of Christian labour. The company has ever shown a proper interest in the welfare of its numerous hands, maintaining churches and schools at the mines and the port.

Besides nearly five hundred engaged at Nolloth, Ookiep had lately 16 officers, 82 Cornish miners, and 820 Hottentot labourers. Spectakel had 30 whites and 270 blacks. Provisions are moderately cheap and plentiful, thanks to the tramway, and a schooner trading to Cape Town. But too much of the wages is spent in Cape brandy and riotous living.

Iron is very abundant in the colony, but is not much utilized at present, from expense of fuel.

Coal, however, is coming bravely to the front, and already supplying railroads approaching carboniferous regions. The Transkei, to the south-east, so famous for cool springs and woodland vales, is seen to possess both coal and copper. Westward, on the Cape Town Flats, valuable lignite is dug up.

Northward and north-eastward are the good and hopeful

deposits. The Stormberg and Camdeboo districts are famed, and throw down from their stony heights many thousands of tons in the year. The Indwe material burns with a white flame, and little smoke. It heated iron about as well as English coal did, and would serve for forge purposes. Woodhouse and Albert show the best of prospects.

Crocidolite, an asbestos-like mineral, chiefly silicate of iron, is now extensively sent to England.

Argol, an impure cream of tartar, which gathers as a crust on the sides of wine-vessels, has become of some importance as a Cape export. Last year it brought 5591*l.* White or red, according to the wine, the argol is preferred when white, as having less earthy matter. Pure argol is cream of tartar. Dyers use it to enable their stuff to take colours better. A hundred pounds of argol will fetch fifty shillings.

Salt pans occur in nineteen divisions of the colony. Bredasdorp provides 6000 muids—nearly twenty thousand bushels—realizing 1200*l.* Fifteen pans in Piquetburg produce, on twenty acres, 5000*l.* worth; though Uitenhage, the same year, on an equal area, brought 20,000*l.*

Mineral springs are known in Graff-Reinet, Robertson, Oudtshoorn, Caledon, Clanwilliam, Albert, and Beaufort West districts. They have their special medicinal virtues, and have been frequented by the Dutch from nearly the time of their first arrival.

The want of communication in a country so elevated, and so full of deep ravines, has been a serious bar to mineral development. The march of the locomotive will soon alter the condition of things, aided by that depression which necessitates research into fresh sources of income.

If prices recover, Cape copper and diamonds will be greatly benefited. In August, 1885, diamonds realized only 18*s.* 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* per carat, though 23*s.* 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* twelve months before. A fall of 25 per cent. is a serious event to Kimberley. Still, the railway coming will greatly lessen rates of supplies, and more than compensate for the lessened cost of stones. Besides, the reduction of income can be met by a more prudent expenditure in luxuries than of old.

COMMERCIAL RESOURCES.

The old trade of the Cape was supplying calling vessels with vegetables and meat. There was little or no export, and the imports from Holland were only necessaries.

A great revival took place after becoming a British possession. Money was freely spent on shore. Still, until the woolled sheep supplied a product needed in Europe, there was only a local trade of limited extent.

The great commercial development came with the English colonization of Port Elizabeth and Graham's Town, followed immediately by successful attention to wool on the hills, and agriculture in the valleys. A coast traffic was opened. Wine in the west was for a time an important article for the shipping.

Mineral treasures were unfolded, and forest resources were heeded. But railways proved the impetus to commerce, and brought down inland spoils to port. Wool and diamonds, ostrich feathers and mohair, almost suddenly carried up the exports to a wonderful extent.

Drawbacks there were. Tribal jealousies and native wars blocked the traffic. A rapid influx of wealth provoked undue speculation, with its natural consequence. Prices of colonial products went down. Seasons were trying for flockmasters, and commerce suffered in the general depression.

Still, judging by experience of the past, no one can doubt the revival at the Cape.

Unlike some colonies, its climate is admirably suited to Europeans, and must attract visitors. In spite of droughts, wool and grain will hold their own, while gold as well as diamonds, coal as well as corn, will in future exalt the Cape horn.

It is within the range of the probable that Cape Town will again be the great port of call for India, China, and Australasia. Already certain steam companies compete with the Suez Canal route. War may necessitate the adoption of the Cape route. Improvements in shipping may decrease the apparent difficulties of the longer voyage.

Cape Colony now joins Natal. Natal is leaning toward

St Lucia Bay of Zululand. The Portuguese Mozambique and Sofala territories come next, fertile, and rich in minerals. Onward still, the Germans are coming about Kilimanjaro.

On the other side, Germany will penetrate the interior from Angra Pequena. The French, Portuguese, and Congo Association are set upon awakening West Africa south of the Line. From the Cape and Port Elizabeth, railways are climbing up to Griqualand West, soon to enter Bechuana, and tap the interior toward the Lake and Zambezi districts. All these progresses bid Cape colonists wait in hope.

The population, under British rule, has grown tenfold in Whites, and nearly a hundredfold in Blacks.

The colony has something of its own; for, of the exports for 1884, 6,743,270*l.* was for the products of the country, out of 6,945,674*l.* total.

The imports include some things easily raised there, if capital were so employed; as, butter, 63,792*l.*; candles, 60,025*l.*; cheese, 34,291*l.*; jams, 58,090*l.*; maize, 32,820*l.*; malt, 16,732*l.*; wheat, 171,254*l.*; and flour 139,656*l.*

The export list tells at once the wealth resources, and the industrial position of the colony.

Diamonds brought 2,807,329*l.* Wool scoured was 1,100,834*l.*; in grease, 376,994*l.*; washed, 267,365*l.*; a total of 1,745,193*l.* Ostrich feathers came to 966,479*l.* Diamonds, wool, and feathers reached that year, 5,519,001*l.*

The other quarter of the exports had copper, 405,415*l.*; sheep-skins, 213,793*l.*; Angora mohair, 239,573*l.*; goat-skins, 115,699*l.*; hides, 105,873*l.*; or, for the five, 1,080,353*l.*

Among minor articles were wine, 17,701*l.*; dried or salt fish, 16,206*l.*; aloes, 9973*l.*; horns, 8621*l.*; argol, 6828*l.* oats, 6213*l.*; seeds, 4890*l.*; bones, 4463*l.*; ivory, 3879*l.*; guano, 3117*l.*; tallow, 2525*l.*; salt, 1831*l.*; asbestos, 1460*l.*; potatoes, 1583*l.*; fruit, 1469*l.*; iron ore, 1020*l.*; onions, 1088*l.*; buchu leaves, 1307*l.*; sealskins, 1058*l.*; brandy, 884*l.*; wild animals 785*l.*; timber, 925*l.*; leather, 368*l.*

The depression affects the exports. The quarter ending June 30th, 1885, was 1,406,247*l.*, while the year before it was

1,706,565*l.* The imports, which were 9,227,171*l.* in 1881, a speculative year, fell in 1884 to 5,249,000*l.* For the quarter, June 30th, 1885, the import was only 1,007,239*l.* The spring forward was now to be looked for.

In 1884, the inward shipping was 2,651,006 tons.

Port trade has shown a tendency eastward. Though Cape Town is the capital, Port Elizabeth, of Algoa Bay, got to have nearly three times the business, owing to the greater development of the Eastern Province. East London, at the mouth of the Buffalo, ranks as the third port.

Cape Town harbour capabilities have vastly improved, with breakwater and graving-dock. Port Elizabeth has nothing like such safety and convenience, with all its growing tonnage. Knysna, the timber port, is hard to enter in winter, because of the north-west wind, and hard to get out of in summer, from the south-east breeze into the harbour. Nolloth, the north-western copper port, is in a heartless desert. St. John and Port Alfred are promising ports to the south-east. Mossel Bay, doing a good business, wants depth.

The Fisheries, principally conducted by the Malays, are of growing value. In 1884, the fish brought 25,000*l.* at Cape Town, 23,738*l.* at Port Elizabeth, 15,000*l.* at Simon Town, and a total of 89,500*l.* There were 1800 men engaged in 330 boats.

Railways are of comparatively recent introduction.

Early in 1885 the traffic was over 1700 miles, at a cost of about fifteen million pounds. A worthy rivalry exists between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth to reach the interior from their respective base.

The Western Line is from Cape Town; the Midland from Port Elizabeth; the Eastern relates to East London and Aliwal North. A recent report put the earnings at 7*l.* per mile, and the expenses at less than 5*l.* To reach Kimberley from the northern limit of the iron road, the Home Government advanced 400,000*l.* at 3½ per cent.

While the *Western* goes to Stellenbosch, Wynberg, and on toward Hope Town, the *Midland* proceeds from Algoa Bay to Graham's Town, Graff-Reinet, Colesberg, &c.

By 1885, the finished lines had cost 1,170,681*l.*; and those in construction, 2,603,824*l.* On roads and bridges, 1,304,617*l.* have been spent; and nearly fifty thousand pounds in telegraphs.

On the lifting up of the depressing cloud, now hanging over most countries, the railways will exert a powerful influence on the commerce of Cape Colony. If only the many millions of natives can be induced to apply to honest industry, and not expend their resources in the purchase of improper commodities, a famous opening will be presented for beneficial trade.

The steam shipping lines,—the *Castle Mail* and the *Union* in particular—have been of enormous service in the development of the colony.

The trade question is thus alluded to in the Official Report to the Colonial Treasurer upon the imports during the year previous; saying,—

“The year 1883 will long be remembered in this colony as a year of almost unparalleled dulness and depression in trade. Of the many causes that have combined to produce this effect, the first and most important was the paralyzing influence of the monetary derangement which marked the close of 1881, and which has ever since continued to be felt, being visible in the stagnant condition of the money-market, and in the general disinclination to embark in even the most legitimate enterprise. When to this agency is added the operation of a severe and long-protracted drought throughout the whole of the Eastern districts, and of an excessive importation in the two previous years (especially in 1881) of the principal articles in demand, it will not be expected that the trade returns now submitted will exhibit on the whole anything but a considerable decrease as compared with those of 1881 and 1882. When, however, we come to examine these returns, we shall find that, although those which deal with imports, home consumption, and revenue, appear in a very unfavourable light as compared with the returns for either of the preceding years, those which show our export transactions are by no means dis-

couraging; and that the marked contraction which has taken place in the consuming powers of the colony has not been accompanied by any serious diminution in its producing powers."

This very fair description of the commercial aspect cannot fail to be encouraging to the friends of the colony.

The diminished ostrich-farming activity was thus explained: "The falling off of this staple (*Feathers*) is due to the fact that owing to the late long-protracted drought, very many farmers have been compelled to relinquish the keeping of ostriches. The value of the ostriches exported within the last three years amounted to 47,252*l.*"

Wool returns for the two years are contrasted. The year 1882 had four and a half million pounds weight of wool in the grease, but two millions less of scoured than 1883. The drought produced an increased export of hides, so many cattle having died.

Imports for 1882 had been 8,581,702*l.*, but fell to 5,560,294*l.* the following year. Only nine of seventy articles of consumption showed any increase; among which were flour, maize, butter, chicory, soap, and railway material. East London suffered an import decline of 34 per cent.; Port Elizabeth, 27; Cape Town, 14; others very much less. While rice and tea dropped 5 per cent., clothing was about 50 per cent. less.

The story told by the list of exports and imports for 1884 affords ground for encouragement, while suggesting probable improvements. One thing is particularly striking; out of an export of 6,945,674*l.*, not less than 6,743,270 were for colonial products. Transshipments were few indeed. Another fact, to us in these islands of no ordinary interest, is that nearly all the exports went off to this country, and nearly all imported goods came from the United Kingdom.

The shipping returns give the same sound. Of 1295 steamers trading thither, with 2,415,723 tonnage, 1280, of 2,388,828, were British. It was not the same with sailing-vessels. Of 628, with 235,283 tonnage, 418, of 128,879, were British:

The Customs reporter who so regretted the sudden fall off in the trade of 1883, might have reflected on the marvellous advance made. In 1850, the customs received 102,173*l.* Twenty years after, in 1870, the returns were over three times as much, being 341,993*l.* In 1883-4 they reached, in those bad times, 906,499*l.*, nine times the amount of 1850

Some particulars of imports during 1884 may be quoted Of 472,555 gallons of beer imported, 22,677 came from Germany. Apparel and slops stood at 268,414*l.*; coffee, 261,915*l.*; wheat, 171,254*l.*; flour, 139,656*l.*; hosiery, 186,058*l.*; haberdashery, 531,579*l.*; hardware, 253,088*l.*; boots and shoes, 273,749*l.*; oilman's stores, 207,236*l.*; cotton piece-goods, 217,907*l.*; sugar, 282,078*l.*

In sums under 100,000*l.* we find blasting compounds, 74,798*l.*; bags, 47,138*l.*; candles, 60,025*l.*; butter, 63,792*l.*; coals, 94,749*l.*; cheese, 34,291*l.*; jams and sweets, 58,090*l.*; maize, 32,820*l.*; blankets, 35,319*l.*; drugs, &c., 62,482*l.*; earthenware, 24,735*l.*; furniture, 68,390*l.*; hats, 50,283*l.*; implements, 20,769*l.*; iron, 84,216*l.*; jewellery, 21,900*l.*; saddlery, 22,916*l.*; machinery, 28,603*l.*; salt meat, 36,244*l.*; oils, 39,779*l.*; railway material, 33,569*l.*; rice, 46,233*l.*; soap, 80,915*l.*; spirits, 87,182*l.*; books, 47,219*l.*; stationery, 66,590*l.*; printing paper, 11,313*l.*; tea, 39,229*l.*; cigars, 13,042*l.*; tobacco, 18,326*l.*; wine 14,023*l.*; timber, 39,907*l.*; wood manufactured, 32,443*l.*; woollens and blankets, 75,578*l.*

Among the smaller imports were arms, 13,641*l.*; caps, powder, &c., 15,846*l.*; blacking, 1978*l.*; brushes, 7818*l.*; corks, 5030*l.*; malt, 16,732*l.*; fruits, 20,601*l.*; hops, 6154*l.*; musical instruments, 18,386*l.*; leather, 8434*l.*; matches, 9249*l.*; plated ware, 10,173*l.*; salt, 2580*l.*; shoemakers material, 2155*l.*; spices, 7755*l.*; maps, 327*l.*; asphalte, 1928*l.*; telegraphic material, 6219*l.*; toys, 7013*l.*; staves, 9441*l.*; pictures, 2100*l.*

The Cape Tariffs may now be described.

While printing paper, anchors, books, agricultural machinery, garden seeds, manure, ice, and sheep-dip are admitted free, carriages are charged 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. Those

paying 15 per cent. are clocks, cotton shirts, blankets, soap, gold and silver plate, pictures, jewellery, and school-stationery. The rest, as ordinary machinery and implements, cocoa, cigars, hops, ironbar and wire, boots, marble, metal composition, staves, bags, &c., pay 10 per cent.

By the gallon, spirits have a duty of 10s., wine 5s., varnish 3s., oil and turpentine 1s., cider and vinegar 6*d.* By the pound, candles, spices, and cinnamon, are 3*d.*; gunpowder, 6*d.*; tea, 8*d.*; tobacco, unmanufactured, 1s., manufactured, 2s.; cigarettes, 3s.; cigars and snuff, 4s.

By 100 lbs. weight the charge at the customs is for wheat, barley, maize, oats, 1s.; salt, 3*d.*; flour, 3s. 6*d.*; paddy rice, 4s. 6*d.*; clean rice, 4s. 2*d.*; dates, 4s. 2*d.*; soap and tallow, 2s. 2*d.*; salt meats, 8s. 4*d.*; sugar, 8s. 4*d.*; but coffee, chocolate, chicory, cheese, and confectionery, 16s. 8*d.*

Guns paid a pound duty on each barrel; pistols, 10s. While teak paid 4*d.* the cubic foot, and planed wood 3*d.*, ordinary timber came for 2*d.*

Outlooks for the commercial future are not gloomy, notwithstanding low rates. A complaining tone never helps, and rarely attracts sympathy. The colonists are girding up their loins for an earnest effort, and prudently moderating their expenses. The departure of that fitful and consuming fever after wealth, characterizing all classes, has brought back a quiet attention to daily duties, and a steady determination by legitimate work and trade to recover the saddle.

Exports will certainly increase, while imports will grow with better times. Renewed capacity of purchase will re-develop the readiness to buy.

INDUSTRIES.

Compared with more recently established colonies, the Cape cannot be considered very strong in manufactories. Raw material raised in country districts furnished the export, and towns were feebly supplied with artisans. The reproach cast upon the colony for importing things which can be so easily made there is being removed.

In 1884 Cape Town could boast of 170 works or

businesses ; Albany, 86 ; Knysna, 33 ; Uitenhage, 27 ; and Port Elizabeth, 113. As the capital had but 40,000 people, the home industries were considerable.

Besides employments connected with the building trade, sail-making, boat-building, ice manufactures, basket-making, &c., there were 7 tanneries, 7 distilleries, 3 gasworks, 7 breweries, 3 soap and candle works, 22 cooperages, 3 bone-crushing works, 40 flourmills, 18 wool-washing establishments, 124 saddlery businesses, 11 sawmills, 74 printing-works, 17 tobacco factories, 130 brick-fields, 35 confectionery and jam businesses, 302 bakeries, 129 iron and tin works, 198 wheelwrights, 129 boot-making, 87 aerated-water works, and 58 fish-curing establishments.

The last, which is managed by Malays chiefly, promises to be a great monetary success. Saddlers and wheelwrights may well be in request in so waggon-running a land. Cooperages are in connection with the developing wine trade. The number of gasworks would mark the difference between Australasia and the Cape, the former having so large a proportion of its towns lighted with gas or electricity. A goodly amount of artisan work is performed by Chinese, Malays and other coloured races. In Graham's Town the fibre *moorra* is being separated for the English market.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Cape Colony and Natal, for their interests are common, and their connection will be more and more intimate, cannot fail to progress, and become of increased attractiveness to British emigrants. The resources already described are developing. So very remarkable an outgrowth as has been evidenced during the past ten years, notwithstanding the shadow now passing over, cannot be stayed. The activity distinguishing that period will not subside, and new enterprises may confidently be expected from that colonial awakening.

The mining industry will be among the foremost. No one questions the richness and extent of Namaqua copper. The Cape Copper Company has conducted its affairs with

ability and prudence, having a just view of the claims of its servants. Appliances are all that can be desired. The hundred-mile mule tramway works well, and farms are rising in the midst of that strange wilderness wherever fountains are found. Labour is so cheap, relatively, that low prices less seriously affect than in Australian and Canadian copper workings.

Coal is now an established fact, and each year reduces the difficulty of approach while enhancing the value of the product. Already local industries are contemplated by its aid, and the Cape ranges may ere long be wreathed with the smoke from iron works. A country so destitute of timber may well rejoice at the opening of its coal-fields.

Gold is not expected in any quantity within the boundary, though not unknown in both Natal and the Cape; but just over the border of both countries the golden sands are washed, and golden threads are being followed through the solid rock. The gold products of Transvaal, and more northern regions, cannot fail in benefits to our settlements.

Diamonds have undergone a fall in price from 32*s.* 8*d.* per carat, in 1882, to 28*s.* in 1883, to 24*s.* in 1884, and 21*s.* in 1885. Nevertheless, the declared value of stones during 1885 was 2,489,778*l.* The magnificent diamond of 437 carats will weigh 200 when cut; but that is double the weight of the Kohinoor.

Those Kimberley mines are being wrought with such scientific skill that better results must appear, and the cost of production be lessened. The extraction of the celebrated *blue clay* by underground workings is pronounced a decided success. In one mine a company landed on the floors 4600 loads, and expect to have a thousand loads a day. It would be a grand thing to escape those land-slips which give the miner such useless toil.

The amalgamation of the leading mines would certainly tend to economy of production. One difficulty in the way is the remarkable variety existing in the character of the ground, embarrassing any calculation. Thus, while Kimberley proper raised during three recent years, 2,280,123 carats

weight, estimated at 2,211,239*l.*, the mine of Du Toit's Pan got 2,090,666*l.* for only 1,483,184 carats. Again, one mine may increase while another fails to reach a former standard of yield. But the amalgamation is so essential to the prosperity of Kimberley that a way will be opened for its accomplishment.

The railway to Kimberley, now completed, will be a general lift up to the districts through which it will pass, helpful to farmers, pastoralists, and coal-miners. To Kimberley itself it brings the chief advantage. Already buildings of architectural stability and beauty are springing up in that reputed desert, and a great city will soon appear amidst the bleak ranges of the Upper Orange river. A Cape paper thus puts the case:—

“The old idea that Kimberley was a temporary dust-heap has long ago faded into oblivion. Government and private individuals have built, and are building, substantial structures which are calculated to stand for an indefinite time. Gardening is almost universally carried on, and the people have generally woken up to the fact that they will have to live in Kimberley for many years—perhaps all their lives—and that the sooner they make the place pretty and habitable the better. People plant trees now because they have some chance of sitting under the shade.”

It was so in Australia. Men went to dig up a fortune, or make one very quickly some way, and then leave for Europe to enjoy the spoil. A change came, like the recent depression in Cape Colony; and when folks found that only a competence, and not a fortune, could be expected, they settled down, resolving to make the best of things. The result of this wise policy is beheld in the spread of flourishing homesteads, and the magnificence of such a town as Melbourne or Sydney.

Cape colonists are quietly coming to a like conclusion. Instead of hasting to be rich, stripping the land of its treasure, and rushing off to Europe, they are convinced that it is alike their duty to the country and to their families to make themselves comfortable there.

Resources have not been sufficiently tended. When of old

the wild ostriches were hunted for amusement, and the lovely feathers were converted into brooms by worthy housewives, it was little expected that ostrich-farms would be bringing in such a revenue. When goats skipped about among the children, it was not dreamed that another goat from Angora would be introduced, that would return over a quarter of a million a year for its hair. When the ancient Boers were satisfied with a woolless sheep, it was an unlooked-for time that would give farmers millions from an animal that carried wool.

Several of these modern industries only require proper nursing to be of increased value. Wool can be and should be improved. The terrible drought that has made such havoc with ostriches, and broken up so many flourishing camps, would not have been so destructive had the settlers previously spent time and money in dams and sinkings, or utilized existing means of irrigation in raising a crop for the starving birds. The spread of disease among the birds has been greatly owing to want of care.

The Angora goat has not been managed with needful care, and the export of mohair has suffered from the negligence. The great importing mohair-cloth workers—Sir Titus Salt and Co.—recently gave this counsel to Cape farmers:—"Clip only once a year, class separately firsts, seconds, thirds, and woddings. Do not mix in one bale long and short stapled hair. Pack winter hair separate." The right breed of goat, and the proper management of mohair, would largely benefit the struggling grower.

It is with the sheep, the goat, the ostrich, as with so many other things, that a little more attention would make all the difference between profit and loss. That sour grass can be used to advantage for some stock, and even converted into sweet veldt by proper measures, is a discovery resulting from the modern use of ordinary intelligence.

Grain cultivation has been grievously passed by. As the British Isles have to contend with damp and blight, so the Cape has to fight with drought and grasshoppers. Yet there are tracts toward the coast where the trouble is reduced to a

minimum, and the temporary depression will force to culture previously slighted. The long-neglected dairy will be remembered, so that butter and cheese need not be purchased by those who tend vast herds.

Cotton is once more coming into notice, and the Cape has numerous spots suited to its growth. In tobacco, so suited to soil and climate there, a future is opening. A recent *Humansdorp* paper remarked of the colonial product—"One of the best has very much the appearance of bird's-eye, and from the smell it would be difficult to detect its South African growth. And we believe the sample only wants maturity to render it as fragrant a weed as any imported tobacco."

The diseases troubling stock, and diminishing the numbers in flocks and herds, are gradually yielding to scientific and common sense treatment. It is not in all districts that horse-sickness prevails; and this anthrax fever can be prevented by not suffering horses to graze when passing through infected districts, while providing them with cover at night. The *Heart-water* is known to arise from a microbe getting to the sheep's heart-bag, as the *Red-water* of cattle is from another germ on the veldt. Pleuro-pneumonia has been checked by drenching cattle with fluid from the chest of a lung-sick animal. The scab is being now kept down by rigorous legal action. By fencing-in burial places of diseased stock, the spread of infection is stayed.

The interior, as Karroo and desert regions, is now ascertained to be the most healthy places for sheep, cattle, and horses, with capital wild sage-bush, when grass fails, and below the surface inexhaustible stores of water.

Bechuana is an illustration of what promise is held out by most forbidding-looking localities. In Stellaland, the south-eastern part of Bechuana, farms are being rapidly taken up. The soil is admirable, and, by sinking a score or so of feet, abundance of water is obtainable. It is said that the flesh of animals fed on the Vaal bosch is delicious in flavour. The country will be one day a grain region of enormous proportions, with no winter's rigour, and no suspicion of fever and ague.

Town industries are coming to the front. It may be said that the ordinary English mechanic is not so required there as in some places. Judged by rate of wages, he is not badly off. Still, it must be confessed that, without raising a little capital through sobriety and prudence, so as to employ coloured workers under his superior intelligence, his position is not so satisfactory.

The people are Dutch, British, Malay, Negro, Kaffir, and Hottentot. The last was first in the field, and kept his herds when Dutchmen came 230 years ago. Kaffirs were conquering intruders, by whatever name known, the Zulus being last comers, and the most remorseless. Negroes were slaves.

Malays from south-eastern Asia have largely taken the place occupied by Coolies from India in other colonies. They are, however, more intelligent and industrious than the Hindoos. They do not generally favour agriculture, but readily work under Europeans in town trades, fishing, and shipping, though preferring, as soon as possible, to live independently. Being sober Mahometans, they are far better colonists, with their families, than other coloured men.

The Boer has been a difficulty in the way of some of our people going to the Cape as settlers. The noisy minority, thanks to certain well-known haters of Englishmen, have been made to appear opposed to British contact and British rule. No capitalist going there need fear obstruction from them. The great majority of Boers in Cape Colony, unlike some Transvaal treckers, are quiet Christian people, but who have gained much by intercourse with more enterprising new-comers from our islands. They are good honest neighbours, though rather slow and reserved.

As elsewhere stated, the Eastern Province, around and beyond Port Elizabeth, northward and eastward, contains a majority of British; and the Western, of Dutch. The Eastern, only in process of settlement, has the better material for progress. Land is fertile, pastures are good, mines are developing, climate is favourable. On that side it is, notwithstanding the gathering presence of dark tribes, that most can be done, particularly with a little cash.

The Transkeian territory is filling up gradually. There are noble forests, flowing streams, fine showers, with soil fitted for the raising of crops even of a sub-tropical character. All through Kaffraria such a difference is seen to that barrenness and dryness known westward. A Cape Government circular had these statements of that eastern quarter :—

“A new road is now in course of construction through this tract from Plettenberg’s Bay. This will open up and render accessible about 350 square miles of what are at present waste, unoccupied Crown lands, upon which there are fine forests of valuable timber, and large open flats of excellent soil capable of being cultivated and irrigated to any extent.”

Speaking of some eastern border districts, it goes on to say, “The lands are capable of rearing every description of stock, as well as of producing all kinds of grain, fruits, and vegetables. A railway runs through them, connecting them with the seaport.” It adds a word on the blacks: “There is also a great native population in this part of the country, many of whom are owners of stock and other property; others are on Mission stations, and some readily take service with the European settlers.”

In East Griqualand, and other portions of that side of the colony, great areas were laid out for the settlement of Agricultural Emigrants. The farms are put up to auction by Government, being sold to the highest offerer of annual rental, redeemable at twenty years’ purchase. This economises the settler’s first outlay, while affording opportunity of securing the freehold of his farm in time.

The Land Act of 1877 stipulates the conditions on which certain portions of the colony can be had on lease. The term of occupancy is ten years, at a rental of one shilling an acre. Within two years, the occupant must erect a dwelling, and afterwards bring every year one-tenth of the location into cultivation. At the end of the term, providing the conditions have been observed, the person secures the farm for the future by the simple annual payment of one per cent. upon ten years’ value of former rental.

The circular properly warns the intending emigrant, saying, "It is indispensable that he should be possessed of some small means upon which to maintain himself and his family during the time he is constructing his dwelling-house, and enclosing and cultivating his corn-fields, potato-fields, orchard, or garden. It is desirable that he should be able to purchase some stock to depasture upon the settlement commonages."

In the Knysna district, between Cape Town and the eastern Port Elizabeth, is a charming climate for sea breezes, fair showers, forest shelter, and sunny skies. Essentially the timbered region, it has cheap water communication with the two chief towns of the colony as markets. Wood-cutting is profitable, and the cleared land is admirable for crops of all sorts of corn and English fruits and vegetables. There are pretty lakes and romantic hills. The *Cape Almanac* for 1885 thus describes the Knysna :—

"A regular rainfall, an abundant water supply, good pasturage, good soil, a fine climate, an excellent harbour, a mine of sylvan wealth, with other possible advantages, appear to justify the assertion that Knysna in the course of a few years will be one of the finest divisions of the colony."

The same authority remarks the progress of settlement in King William's Town division, writing, "Improvements in farming pursuits are being largely introduced every year, in the shape of agricultural implements and steam machinery." It notes the general adoption of wire fencing, and declares that "much attention is paid to irrigation."

The lofty Alexandra, among the Zuurberg mountains, now has its sour-grass fed down by cattle, and traets are easily irrigated for grain and hay. Forests are extensive, but horse-sickness is bad there. Middelburg, also a high land, is too open for goats, but admirable for ostriches. It's *gebrokeveld*, a mixture of grass and karroo, affords good feed. Cold is severe in winter.

Richmond pasturages are at an elevation a thousand feet higher than the summits of our Ben Lomond and Snowdon. The *Almanac* describes "different varieties of stunted bush, growing from six to twelve inches high, commonly called the

karroo, which will stand the most severe droughts." There is no fluke among the sheep in those high and dry Karroo districts. The town is 450 miles from Cape Town and 250 from Algoa Bay.

North-western Calvinia has much karroo. Though so dry, water is readily reached by digging. The soil is remarkably productive, rendering a hundredfold. The great Karroo, 350 miles by 70 in extent, is from 2000 to 5000 feet above the sea level. Its sheep-bush thrusts down its roots deep into the good soil, and buds forth with the least moisture. Even in dreary Namaqualand, a slight shower will scatter flowers over the waste. The dry Kalihari desert, part of which is in Bechuana, could with irrigation become a vast garden.

Piquetberg is another lofty district to the north-west, and is favoured with fewer locusts than its neighbours. There is a fine ostrich country known as the *Zandveld*, whose light soil will throw excellent crops. Tulbagh has hills with snow. Roggeveld is cold. Coudveld is truly cold land. Snecuberg farms will not get sun warm enough to ripen grapes.

Frazerberg is another cool pastoral part, though summers can be hot enough. Some dozen years ago half the flocks died from long and excessive drought. Yet the soil is of marvellous fertility, and only requires a little irrigation to yield great harvests of grain. A colonist wrote that the work "while benefiting the country would confer fortunes on the investors in and promoters of a scheme having for its object the development of those rich lands."

Victoria West, though pastoral, could raise grain well in that undulating district by the use of dams. Lambs thrive there. Farms of from 4000 to 35,000 acres each were said last year to be available at from one to seventeen shillings the morgen of a couple of acres. The Van Wyk's Vlei storage reservoir of Carnarvon, covering nineteen square miles, holds 35,000,000,000 gallons. The multiplication of such works would revolutionize farming at the Cape.

Ostrich camps are seen to advantage in Riversdale

division, often called Grasveld from its fine pasture. The birds do well in the fertile George division, though so near the sea. George has some grand forests, with a gold-mining trial at Kuratara river. Ostriches have flourished in Oudtshoorn, a locality famed as well for wine and Spanish reed-whipsticks, an article of commerce.

Water so favours Uitenhage near the Winterhoek with summits of 7000 feet, that wool-washing is carried on there as the leading industry.

The high country toward the sources of the Orange devoted to pasturage, is open to all the winds of heaven having burning breezes one season and freezing ones another, but possessing a salubrity that renders it a retreat for consumptives. The town of Hanover is 5000 feet, and is a health resort for such invalids. Albert is a high region, with stores of good coal. Aliwal North, by the Orange, is very healthy. Queenstown rests under a hill 7000 feet high.

Victoria East, having Alice for its capital, has magnificent scenery, and good cattle pasturage. The celebrated Lovedale Industrial Institution for natives is there. The Fingoes, rescued by the Cape Government from slavery under another native race, are progressing under missionary training, many of them voting at elections.

Coming to lower lands, we have the lovely farming British district of Albany eastward, and the old-established, central Dutch settlement of Graff-Reinet, a nestling of pretty homesteads amidst orchards. Westward, nearer Cape Town, are such neighbourhoods as Stellenbosch, Malmsbury, Swellendam, the Paarl, Wynberg, &c., where the visitor can see how well Dutch Boers enjoy themselves on their grain farms, their fruit gardens, and their vineyards.

The Cape is not such a desert as it is often represented. England, however fertile as a whole, is not without large areas that have never courted the plough, and are of little use for pasture. Cape Colony undoubtedly suffers from drought, though many of its Field-cornetcies escape, and more will yet soon afford to smile at the evil. All sorts of climates, however, can be had, according to selection. Nature is yet

ungoverned in its wildness, requiring the bridle of human civilization to restrain its violence, and direct its course. In due time, the Cape will prove itself well worthy regard, and will vindicate its important claims before the British public.

Civilization marches ahead in the shape of the Press. At the commencement of 1885, there were 42 papers published in the English language, 22 in English and Dutch, 7 in Dutch only, 1 in German for eastern settlers of that nation, 1 in Kaffir for the exclusive benefit of that race, and 1 in both Kaffir and English. There were 10 coming out daily, 9 thrice a week, 14 twice, and 38 once a week, besides a couple of monthlies.

The names generally indicate the place of publication; as, the *Paarl Patriot*. The Dutch titles of some may seem strange to English readers: as, the *Boeren Bode*—*De Kinder-vriend*—*De Opwekking*—*Volksblad*—*Afrikaner*—*Afrikaansche Boeren-vriend*, &c.

Religion is well sustained. Literary institutions exist. Town life has the charms of refined intercourse, good music, and considerable evidences of culture. Education is extending among Dutch as well as English settlers, to the improvement of manners on farms. The Immigrant discovers on his arrival at Cape Town that, in spite of Dutch exponents, Malay mosques, Hottentot team-drivers, and Kaffir workmen, he is in a British colony, under British law.

EUROPEAN BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

THE British dominions are to be found in the five great divisions of the world,—Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia. Those contained in Europe, outside the British Isles and Channel Isles, are Gibraltar, Malta, and Heligoland.

GIBRALTAR.

Though not three miles in length, and less than a mile in width, this little territory is of great value to British commerce, providing a safe and protected port to our vessels

trading in the Mediterranean, and is of special importance to our Empire, in a political sense, securing a fortified shelter for men-of-war.

To trade, convenience is not the sole advantage. In declaring Gibraltar a free port, facilities for merchants were greatly extended by our Government. It is thus in Southern Europe, what Hong-kong and Singapore are to us in Asia, an excellent entrepôt of mercantile enterprises. The manufactures of Great Britain are stored there for the exchange of productions taken there by the native craft around the Mediterranean. Under the shelter of our flag, and without the imposition of duties, commerce is as safe as it is unhampered. Trifling harbour-dues, with charges on the importation of alcoholic liquors, suffice to pay Crown expenses.

The benefit arising from our scattered posts throughout the world is not mere national prestige, but actual support and encouragement to the mercantile marine, and the conducting of commercial affairs with the least possible risk, loss, or annoyance.

The noble rock rises 1439 feet, being united to the south province of Spain by the low, flat isthmus, retained as a debatable ground between England and Spain. Not content with the ordinary means of fortification afforded by such a site, the Government have pierced the rock for galleries and tiers of artillery. The town below is densely packed with 20,000 people, who thrive upon general trade and garrison outlay.

Though hot in summer from the reflection off limestone, and tried, occasionally, by the depressing levantine or east wind, Gibraltar is considered very healthy, thanks largely to the care of the executive in matters affecting sanitation.

As the guardian of the Straits, Gibraltar became a fortified position in very early times. When the Arabs from Barbary made a conquest of Spain a thousand years ago, they constructed castles and walls of defence upon the rock. It came into English possession during a war with Spain in 1704. A combined force of French and Spaniards attempted a recapture eighty years after. The boldness and skill of

Governor Elliot repulsed the force, while red-hot shot destroyed a number of the enemy's ships.

The absolute rule of the place is in the hands of the commanding officer, the townspeople having no municipal authority. Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, &c., on the African side, with Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey north of the Mediterranean, contribute by their trade to the importance of the *Rock*, while the imperial interests are well conserved by its retention in British possession.

MALTA.

This island is believed by some to be more needful to England and English commerce than even Gibraltar. Its central position in the Mediterranean, sixty miles south of Sicily, and three times that distance to the opposite African shore, gives it the virtual command of that sea.

Malta itself is but seventeen miles long and nine broad. The area of its neighbouring isle, Gozo, is but one-fifth the extent. Several smaller rocky eminences appear about them.

In climate, Malta has a warmth to be expected in latitude 36° N., and with such proximity to the burning wastes and arid stone hills of North Africa. The circumscribed space allotted to the port and town of Valetta necessitated the narrow climbing streets and lofty houses, which confine the air, and add to the closeness and heat in summer, particularly when the sun beats down upon the limestone rock, and the Sirocco blows from off the African coast. Thanks to the breezes playing on the water, the thermometer rarely reaches 90° in the shade. Valetta, strong in position naturally, is now made what is supposed to be impregnable by costly engineering works. The great harbour is a marvellous illustration of constructive skill, and is serviceable alike to armed ships and vessels engaged in peaceful commerce.

Outside the town, every acre is turned to account by the agricultural Maltese, who have so good a market in the supply of the shipping and troops. Favourably situated for early crops, the island is able to send vegetables even to London. Almost everything capable of being raised in temperate and

sub-tropical regions can be grown there. Fruits are very plentiful, and of delicious flavour.

Surrounded by so much luxuriance, with living both cheap and good, with pleasant society, with varied entertainments and gaieties, as well as with a winter climate of peculiar brilliancy and comfort, Malta has become one of the chief health resorts of Europe. Confined streets and dirty habits once gave it a bad repute; but there have been such recent sanitary improvements, that the average death-rate has been considerably reduced.

The Maltese, an extraordinarily mongrel race of African, Asiatic and European origin, crowd 160,000 upon this limited territory. They are dark in feature, restless in habit, and not very remarkable for some of the common virtues of humanity. A seafaring, roving people, they are establishing Maltese colonies around the Mediterranean shores, and even sending off swarms to South America and Australia. Shrewd, passionate and active, they make themselves felt with any community into which they are thrown.

They are allowed political privileges which are denied to the Spanish residents in Gibraltar. They may elect eight of the seventeen members of a Legislative Council, under the authority of a Governor and his Executive Council. The payment of 4*l.* a year rental entitles a man to a vote. Officials constitute the majority of nine in the Parliament. The elected members must understand both the English and Italian tongues, be rentees of a dwelling of at least 10*l.* a year, or be paying as much as 40*l.* a year for board and lodging.

The revenue of the State is about 200,000*l.*, which is, contrary to the rule in Gibraltar, largely derived from import duties. Six shillings a ton is laid upon wheat or flour, which comes from Italy or Africa, and half a crown a gallon only on spirits, but most articles pay no duty. Bullocks and sheep are brought from Tunis and Tripoli, as well as much grain, dates, and manufactured leather and cloth.

Considerable trading operations are conducted, especially as Malta is so important a port of call.

The islands were held by Phœnicians, and then by colonists, originally from Tyre and Sidon, known as Carthaginians, ministering to their extensive commercial enterprises. The Romans succeeded as conquerors. Upon the fall of Rome, Malta had a succession of Vandal, Gothic, Saracenic, Norman, and Spanish masters. Three centuries ago the islands were given to the Knights of St. John, who strengthened the works. These military monks were dispossessed by the French, at the time of the first Republic, much to the displeasure of the inhabitants, who gladly welcomed the victorious fleet of England in 1800.

HELIGOLAND.

This Frisian-Saxon island lies off the mouth of the river Elbe, in the stormy North Sea or German Ocean. The ancestors of its inhabitants were cousins and brothers of those who settled along the eastern coasts of England and Scotland, particularly giving the character to the present dwellers in Fifehire and its northern neighbourhood.

Now in two islands, there was but one mass of land in the ocean till the terrible tempest of 1720 made a gap in it a mile wide. Heligoland proper is simply a nearly perpendicular sandstone rock, 170 feet high. The portion cut adrift is known as "Sandy," and is large enough to receive the crowd of bathers gathering on its splendid beach in summer. Winter climate is rough for fishing.

Once submitting to their own simple but rude Frisian laws, the two thousand residents are now ruled by the Governor in Council, after the breakdown of a trial of representative government. Heligoland came into English possession in 1807, when the Napoleonic war set the continent of Europe against us, and the right of ownership was subsequently confirmed by the treaty of 1814.

In the summer months, Heligoland, or *Holyland*, has a population, from visitors, of four or five times the ordinary amount. Some persons regard it as the finest retreat, during the hot weather, to be found in all Europe.

SKIN DISEASES

Are of two kinds: firstly, those which are only skin deep (which are not now to be considered); secondly, those which are caused by a bad state of the blood, and which attack various parts of the body in different ways. Skin disease shows itself in the HEAD sometimes in the form of Dandruff, which no amount of brushing and combing will get rid of; and sometimes in the form of Sealy Eruptions. In the NECK, by an enlargement of the glands (commonly called Glandular Swellings), which if unchecked becomes very unsightly wounds. In the ARMPITS and the inside of the ELBOWS, by an inflamed Roughness of the Skin, which is very painful when washed. In the HANDS, by deep Cracks or Fissures, which, if healed for a few days, speedily open again, or by horny-looking patches. In the LEGS, by Hard, Shiny, and inflamed Swellings, or by wounds more or less deep; and on the BODY, in Red Sealy Patches, which as often as rubbed off, form again, or in the discharge of a thin watery fluid of a very disagreeable nature. In all these cases, the treatment must be twofold. An ointment is required to relieve Itching, and to heal the surface, and Medicine must be taken to change the state of the blood and render it pure.

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